NEWS / A2

JOB Market

Leftists translate Cuban
Fidel Castro's five-hour speech 'History will Absolve Me' into Tagalog with Satur Ocampo as editor

NEWS / A2

GMA signs RA 9346 abolishing the death penalty; intends to present it to Pope Benedict XVI as part of her one-week swing through Europe

OPINION / A13

Rina David: The public has every right to know the President's state of health. Still, her hospital stay is as good a reason as any to explore the issue of medical confidentiality

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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'Fr. Riles' dreams with poor, refuses to wake up

By Christine V. Esguerra

THE QUIET, BESPECTACLED MAN GARBED IN CASUAL shirt and slacks stood out in the company of government officials attired in dark suits and barong Tagalogs.

Some of the executives looked him over from head to toe, but Fr. Antonio "Nonong" Tajanlo merely gave them a reassuring smile.

FR. RILES, A3

They just want to see the Pope at the Vatican

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOR A CHANCE TO MEET the Holy Father, some congressmen and their spouses have insisted on joining President Macapagal-Arroyo in her

THEY JUST, A3

PNP on nationwide alert

ALL THIS, AND FAULT-LESS, TOO: When geologists say there's no place in the country like Palawan, they mean the gorgeous beaches and the lush forests and mangroves like this one in Barangay Ransan-Bancao in the capital city of Puerto Princesa. But more so, being men of science, they mean Palawan rests on a stable belt where earthquakes have not occurred the past 10,000 years.

PDI Man in Hollywood says Woody Allen obsessing over Scarlett Johansson. He made his latest film 'Scoop' simply for the pleasure of working with Scarlett

ENTERTAINMENT / A4

Monique Lhuillier dresses up Bride Barbie, becoming one of the international designers who created one-of-a-kind fashion for every girl's favorite doll.

LIFESTYLE / D1

LIFESTYLE / C1

TV legend Aaron Spelling, who launched, produced star-making global hits such as 'Dynasty' and 'Charlie's Angels' dies of cancer in Los Angeles. He was 83.

WORLD / A23

GMA leaves St. Luke's, departs for Europe today

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Fe Zamora

WITH THE COUNTRY'S 115,000 policemen on nationwide alert, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday checked out of the hospital to prepare for her 32nd foreign trip to be crowned by a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

The full alert went into effect at 8 a.m. yesterday and will last until Ms Arroyo returns on July 2 from her trip to Italy, Vatican City and Spain, Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said.

She is scheduled to leave for Rome at 10 a.m. today.

"The full alert is police standard operating procedure whenever the President is abroad. It is not related to any threat," Pagdilao told the Inquirer.

The police and the presidential guards have been internationally on heightened alert in recent days for reasons ranging from alleged threats from Islamic rebels to new terror in the metropolis, to Ms Arroyo being rushed to St. Luke's Medical Center for an upset stomach ascribed by doctors to a viral infection.

On Wednesday, as part of the earlier nationwide security alert, the police set up 15 checkpoints around the capital and deployed over 20,000 policemen to thwart any terrorist attacks to shopping malls and public transport systems.

National Capital Region police chief Director Vidal Querol said the police were responding to "consistent" intelligence reports that extremist groups planned to spread terror in the metropolis.

Presidential Security Group chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit also disclosed during the week a supposed plot by a

PNP A2

NO VOLCANOES, QUAKES

Palawan: RP's safest province

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHEN GEOLOGISTS SAY THERE IS NO place in the Philippines like Palawan, they are not talking about its gorgeous beaches and rich forests.

It is the only province in the country that lies on a stable belt, where faults are mostly inactive or have not caused earthquakes in more than 10,000 years, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Nestled between the islands of Mindoro and Borneo, Palawan is almost fault-less—fault referring to breaks or zones of weakness in rocks along which displacements had occurred or can occur again.

While the rest of the country experiences 20 to 25 earthquakes a day or up to 9,125 earthquakes a year, Palawan rests safely on its white sand shores, with perhaps the only distractive motion coming from the waves of its turquoise seas.

"It's actually the most ideal place to build high-rise structures, not Manila," Phivolcs deputy director Bart Bautista told the Inquirer in an interview.

"When people ask us about what design is appropriate in Palawan, we tell them they can build following any design because the ground in Palawan is stable; it's even a good place to build nuclear plants if they want," seismology chief Ishmael Narag added.

Narag said earthquakes in Palawan were "possible but not likely" considering its history.

Located approximately 240 km southwest of Manila, Palawan is known as the Philippines' last ecological frontier, its thick forests being home to 232 wildlife species.

Palawan has a total land area of 1.48 million hectares and is composed of 1,780 islands and islets, with about 22,000 km of irregular coastline that are rich fishing areas.

The province has been spared from earthquakes for more than 10,000 years.

The last earthquake-related disaster that hit Palawan was a tsunami in 1897, landing on Palawan's southern shores with 10-meter high waves. The

PALAWAN A4

GOODBYE TO DEATH PENALTY

Maggie: There's no escaping law of karma

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO expunged the death penalty from the statute books yesterday, one woman whose rape sent four young men to the electric chair says it is but natural for people sometimes to pay with their lives for the wrongs they commit.

That is karma, says Maggie de la Riva.

In June 1967, the then 25-year-old movie actress was abducted from her car by four men and taken to Swanky Hotel in Pasay City, where they took turns raping her.

After four years of investigation and trial, the Supreme Court affirmed the death penalty imposed on Joker Arroe, Basilio Pineda Jr., Edgardo Aguino and Rogelio Canal for the crime of forcible abduction with rape. They buried in 1972.

Reached by phone hours after Ms Arroyo signed the bill abolishing capital punishment, De la Riva said: "I have grown with the times...I am not for or against the death penalty per se."

"So far as I am concerned, the death penalty is a natural consequence of the violation of the natural law, which is karma. Some people deserve the death penalty but some don't."

De la Riva said rape victims should not look at the death penalty "as a matter of revenge."

"If some rape victims are capable of rehabilitation and are repentant, why push for the death penalty. It's a case to case thing."

Abolishing the death penalty is "not a yes or no thing," she said, adding: "There are also many gray areas."

"Five years ago, I would have said if someone is convicted and sentenced, so be it." De la Riva said. "Today, I say even as he is convicted, if there is a trend of remorse in him, if he can still be rehabilitated, let's give him a second chance."

In an interview with the Inquirer last week, De la Riva said the execution of the four men convicted of raping her in 1967 "signalled a closed chapter of her

MAGGIE TODAY: I was defiled but there's another person in me that's beautiful, strong and true.

MAGGIE A3

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

GMA kills death penalty law

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY signed a law abolishing the death penalty which she intends to present to Pope Benedict XVI during her visit to the Vatican next week.

But she also vowed an unrelenting campaign against terrorists and criminals.

"When I meet His Holy Father soon in the Vatican, I shall tell him that we have acted in the name of life for a world of peace and harmony," said the President in a speech shortly after signing Republic Act No. 9346 at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

The President will hear a private audience with the Pope on June 26.

Papal nuncio Archbishop Fernando Filoni described the signing as "a very important day" 12 years after Congress approved a bill allowing lethal injection for individuals found guilty of heinous crimes.

Filoni led the list of top Cabinet officials, senators, congressmen, Church leaders and nongovernment, civil organization leaders who graced the event.

The abolition of the death penalty law here reinstated by families of the victims of heinous crimes who had gone through the justice system to seek justice for their lost loved ones.

"I affirm the statement that I shall think the abolition of the death penalty opens the flood gate of heinous acts," the President said.

"We shall continue to elevate the increasing weight of our resources to the prevention and control of serious crimes rather than take the lives of those who commit them," said Mrs. Arroyo, in justifying her decision to do away with the maximum penalty.

Cited for swift action

The President called on law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, jailers and the whole community "to take stock of the responsibility of observing the laws and justice for all."

"We have taken a strong hand against the threats to the law and the landslide, but at the same time we yield to the high moral imperatives dictated by God to walk away from capital punishment," the President said.

The President likewise praised the two chambers of Congress for the swift passage of RA 9346 which was triggered by her terror Sunday message to grant a blanket commutation to death row convicts.

"I appreciate the enthusiasm of Congress in expressing the moral and spiritual force of the Filipino in this law. I thank the Church for the lessons of peace and discernment," the President said.

RA 9346 is expected to benefit 1,200 inmates on death row, including 131 at Quezon Reformatory infirmary for individuals found guilty of heinous crimes.

Ali Ameen, who survived an impeachment attempt last year over persistent allegations of election cheating, had declined to authorize any executions since the start of her presidency in 2001.

Leaders of anti-crime groups have complained about ending capital punishment, saying the government failed to consult them.

"If the Senate, the House and Malacañang are locked and you have the highest officials of the land killed, I bet you they will bring back the death penalty law," said former Leonard de Vera, a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Abolition not timely

"The abolition is not very timely because of the existence of terrorist groups, hardcore criminals, syndicates and kidnappers," said Dean Tenmoso, head of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

"The abolition may mean that victims of heinous crimes might take the law in their hands."

In a war message, Arroyo said the people to arm themselves against criminals.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Arroyo's suggestion was "irresponsible."

"They should leave law enforcement to the law enforcers. That's how it works. If all Filipinos play the role of cops, there will be chaos and anarchy," said the opposition senator.

The main challenge

Lacson said the government, particularly the police, should take the call as a challenge "to remain vigilant and always on their toes to prevent the recurrence of crimes that fall under their domain and make them feel safe in their homes and in the streets."

The Arroyo proposal was acceptable to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. who said, however, that the people should keep their arms in their homes.

"They should have permits for those firearms. They should protect themselves and secure their homes, but within the bounds of law," he said in an interview.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the real challenge facing the authorities now lies in disproving swift justice and impose punishment on criminals.

"It is not the severity but the certainty of punishment for violations of the law that serves as a deterrent to the hearts of would-be criminals," Pangilinan said.

Hollow, less meaningful

Senator Bayani Fernando, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayong Makabayan, downplayed Mr. Arroyo's move. "The signing of the law abolishing the death penalty is hollow and is much less meaningful by the continued killings of activists and journalists," Reyes said.

"We're very happy and thankful to the President," Alfredo Campol, 49, sentenced to death in 1990 for kidnapping, told listeners at the country's main prison in Muntinlupa.

"I hope the government could also give us a second chance by releasing those who became victims of my colleagues on death row served a heinous crime."

But some convicts were ambitious, detailing the idea of spending the rest of their lives in jail. With reports from Tina G. Santos, Jeannie Calleja, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau chiefs

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo chats with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, the Pope's representative in the Philippines, after signing the bill abolishing the death penalty yesterday. Ms. Arroyo names today for an official trip to the Vatican, where she is to meet with Pope Benedict XVI, and Spain.

'Attack had earmarks of MILF, JI'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday denounced the bomb attack in a public market in Maguindanao against Gov. Andal Ampatuan and ordered authorities to go after its perpetrators.

The military said the bombing bore the signature of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Jemaah Islamiya terrorist group.

Ampatuan escaped unhurt. At his city's steps that left six people dead.

"I condemn this act of terrorism in the strongest terms as a crime against peace and humanity," said the President reading a prepared speech at Malacañang.

"Well never be intimidated by these murderous acts and we shall fight terror as militantly as our previous peace and development, solidarity among our two abiding citizens and our strongest alliances. This commitment stands firm and will not relent until the small minority of terrorists in every part of the country," the President said.

"The authorities must identify the perpetrators, launch a manhunt with the proper counsels, and bring them to justice," Mrs. Arroyo said.

The President also extended her condolences to the victims of the attack, which included Ampatuan's nephew Kutalam Ampatuan. "I assure them that the search for justice will be firm and relentless," the President said.

Ampatuan was unscathed but four people riding in a car that was following his vehicle were killed. Two other fatalities, including a 7-year-old girl, were on the roadside near the public market where the bomb exploded at around 7 a.m.

Col. Felipe Tabus, commander of the Army's 601th Infantry Brigade based in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, said that except for the MILF and the JI, no other group was capable of making such type of bomb.

Tabus said the bomb was made up of four 81-mm mortar shells fitted with a timer.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, denied any MILF involvement in the attack and offered to help in this investigation and arrest of the attackers.

Ustadz Mohammad Mukaram, chair of the MILF's religious propaganda committee, described the attack as "the handiwork of lawless people or persons of bloody upbringing."

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Zhumina, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Dagudalusan, earlier said the MILF continued to stable if terrorism. Jeoffrey Maitem, Charlie Sellote with c. report from Apolito Zenit, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fidel Castro speech in book form is RP leftists' reply to GMA

By Nitt Contreras

TALK ABOUT TIT-FOR-TAT BEING neighbor-like-minded.

A Filipino translation of Cuban President Fidel Castro's "I Accuse Will Absolve Me" (Ly Absolvi Mi Absolver) speech is the leftists' initial answer to President Macapagal-Arroyo's \$1 billion peso challenge to finish off the communist insurgency in two years.

Kinatawan ng Bagong pamahong sila at iba, iyon kasi ang Ly Cat's Ala, media officer of the organization Edmund Mag-babalad ng Filipinas peasant group, and edited with an introduction by Satur Mesa Ilep. Satur Ocampo, was launched last week at the Pop-ular Bookstore in Quezon City.

The book-length speech – sometimes Castro's defense in his 1953 trial for leading a failed attempt to oust the Cuban dictator Gen. Fulgencio Batista. The young lawyer turned rebel literally delivered the speech extemporaneously for five hours. Six years later he seized power in the Caribbean island nation which he rules to this day.

Sila, who did the Filipino translation based on the English version supplied by the Cuban Embassy, said the book "tells us how to fight tyranny, his history has proven that to struggle against oppression is always right and justified".

"The Bush can be seen as part of our efforts to counter the increasing attacks of the fascist terrorist regime on its critics, particularly the Left," said Ala, who said he worked on the translation for two months, marching four hours a day.

The Filipino translation was published by the Philippines-Cuba Friendship Association (Archival), whose objectives is, Ayala "the defense of the gains of the Cuban revolution against the intensified attacks of the United States and its allies."

Jorge Bay Jimenez, the Cuban ambassador who was a special guest at the book launch, fanned on this theme in his remarks.

"The historical document, 53 years after being pronounced, has maintained its freshness, and the validity [of its] invocation of the evil that still inhabit our world," he said.

The United States has imposed a trade embargo on Cuba for over four decades, during which Castro has survived a failed US-backed invasion and countless assassination attempts, including the one that spoof of his hairdresser, the former Gerrit Lozano.

Jimenez formally received copies of the book to be sent to Castro. Also at the launch was Isolino University of the Philippines professor Randolfo Nicanor, who heads the Philippines-Cuba Cultural Association.

The book can be considered Jimenez's "birthday gift" to the Cuban leader, who is turning 80 on Aug. 13, said fraternal presidency George Banabera.

Analysts said it was only fraternal that the book came along shortly after the government announced the all-out war against the communists.

Written three to a sentences speech, it's been translated to many languages and you'll find it as a beautiful piece of literature even if you're not ideologically motivated. It's a moral document of its time," said Banabera, a specialist in Latin American affairs and a former head of research in Tokyo and Geneva for the United Nations University.

According to the, Ocampo edited the draft during the two months that he and the rest of the so-called "Batasan 5" party-list representatives were under protective custody at the House of Representatives to avoid arrest on rebellion charges.

In the book's introduction, Ocampo invites readers to just "replace the term 'Cuban' with 'Filipino'" in Castro's key insights and they could easily relate to his message.

As Aguinis and Jimenez noted, Cuba and the Philippines can be considered "twins," both having developed their sense of nationhood as colonies of Spain.

Castro acted as his own defense attorney at his 1953 trial over the failed uprising that he led on July 26, 1953. The speech provided the foundation for his program of government reform he was granted amnesty, initiated the armed struggle with the legendary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, and finally assumed power in 1959.

No vow of silence on Satur's part, says lawyer

HARRY LEE JOHN OCAMPO, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Palawan RP's safest: No faults, quakes, volcanoes

From page A1

tsunami was generated by a movement in the Sulu Trench, but no casualties were reported, according to Phivolcs.

There was also a report of an earthquake with an epicenter in Palawan almost a century ago, but this has to be reviewed as scientists doubt the reliability of the data due to the insufficiency of monitoring instruments.

"The suspicion is that it was an active tectonics because there recently there has been no direction to Palawan. It's a very quiet place," Bautista said.

Monitoring stations

From only 19 stations in the early 1990s, the Philippines now has 64 seismic stations, 24 of which are manned. The other 10 are unmanned and send information to the Phivolcs central office in Diliman, Quezon City, via a satellite communication system.

Experts say the Philippines, which lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire, needs around 100 seismic stations placed strategically over its 7,100 islands.

The Philippines sits on at least 20 major faults and one continuous fault that spans northern Luzon to eastern Mindanao called the Philippine Fault Zone. Geologists continue to find new faults that are still unnamed.

The country has been hit by 30 earthquakes with magnitude 7 or higher in the last 75 years.

"The likelihood of these destructive earthquakes occurring again is indeed very strong," the Phivolcs said in a primer.

Seismically active areas

Based on the distribution of earthquake epicenters, the most seismically active part of the Philippines is eastern Mindanao, Samar and Leyte, with at least 30 perceptible earthquakes per year caused by the subduction of the Philippine Trench.

Active Fault

The other "relatively active" areas of the country are those near Dingalan Bay, Casiguran, Lubang Island and Aliaduro, according to Phivolcs.

The closest active fault to Palawan is the Aglubang River fault in Mindoro, 130 km from the province. The Manila Trench, another earthquake generator, however, lies closer at around 100 km.

Vulnerable to tsunamis

"Palawan is more vulnerable to the Manila Trench because it's only 100 km away," Bautista said.

While Palawan is relatively safe, Phivolcs installed five seismic stations in the province. The stations are located in the capital city of Puerto Princesa, El Nido, Bataraza, Coron Island and Cuyo.

"They are aware that their place is safe from earthquakes, but they have to be careful about tsunamis, and we need that to raise awareness and generate support from the local governments," Bautista said.

ONLY TIME AND THE DIVINE could have brought forth an exquisite landscape of rock rising out of the sea on Coron Island, Palawan.

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MATURE TREETOPS in a mangrove forest in Sabang near the Baniloa Nature Park in Palawan.

IN THE KNOW

- AN EARTHQUAKE IS A SHAKE TO VIBRATION resulting of the ground caused by the sudden displacement of rocks or rock material below the earth's surface. It can cause landslides, ground shaking, ground rupture, tsunami and liquefaction.
- There are two types of earthquakes: Tectonic quakes, caused by sudden movements along fault features in the solid and rigid layer of the earth, and volcanic quakes, induced by lavas or magma rising from beneath the surface of active volcanoes.
- The Philippine archipelago lies between two tectonic plates, the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate. The Philippine Sea Plate is moving toward the Philippine archipelago at about 7 cm per year while the Eurasian plate is being subducted along the western side of Luzon and Mindoro at the rate of 3 cm per year.
- The Philippines has 20 major faults and counting. The longest fault, the Philippine Fault Zone, spans from Surigao to Davao del Sur.
- The country experiences 20-25 earthquakes daily or around 9,125 earthquakes a year but these are not strong enough to be felt. Magnitude 5 quakes are considered strong while magnitude 7 quakes are considered major.
- There has been no earthquake in Palawan for more than 10,000 years while the most seismically active areas - eastern Mindanao, Samar and Leyte - experience at least 30 earthquakes per year.
- The strongest earthquake that can hit Metro Manila would be caused by the Valley Fault System, also known as the Marikina Fault, at magnitude 7.2, an earthquake generated by this fault can damage 484,000 houses, kill 31,500 people and injure 114,000 others.
- Earthquake monitoring was first done by the Ateneo Observatory in Manila during the Spanish period. It was later transferred to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration before being delegated to Phivolcs.

Source: Phivolcs

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CHR: Still no proof of death squads but…

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS has yet to receive evidence of the existence of so-called death squads being after mounted militarism but a commissioner said he would not be surprised if government forces were involved.

Lawyer Dimaculangan Columbia, CHR officer in charge, ruled the Inquirer the commission would soon take up the cool increasing killings of members of leftist organizations that security officials had tagged as legal fronts of the New People's Army, the armed component of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"So, we still have no information but, almost that," said Columbia when asked about the existence of military death squads going after members of militant groups, particularly in the countryside.

"But I would not be surprised if we find out that we involved. They have the means and the resources," said Columbia, a long-time CHR member who had stints in southern Philippines and the Visayas before becoming commissioner.

Columbia is temporarily at the helm of the CHR in lieu of chair Purificacion Quisumbing who is abroad and is not expected back until mid-July.

"We will probably have meetings with the representatives of the military and the PNP next month. We'd want to know how some the killings continues and why they remain unsolved," Columbia said.

Columbia said that despite the bromides by the PNP of Task Force Usig to look into the killings of media and journalists and to bring those behind them to justice. The killings go on and no killers had been brought to justice.

"We'd want to be briefed why the killings continue to happen," Columbia said.

Quisumbing in last May said the government was responsible for the killings of activists saboteur as core as issues were behind the assassinations.

She said that from a human rights standpoint it was the government's responsibility to make sure its citizens were protected and that such crimes were solved.

Added three documents allegedly distributed by the Armed Forces' Ogdan Bunoy Lara and other campaigns targeting several groups alleged to be NPA fronts, Columbia said he had yet to see the papers.

"I wish the sources of the INQ (Alejandro Magbalosbal ng Philippines) would give me the documents or at least copies of the documents," Columbia said.

The INQ had earlier said a source inside Camp Aguinaldo had given them copies of intelligence plans to monitor national groups.

The letter believes the intelligence plans resulted in the rash of killings of activists since 2002.

In Legazpi City, a Stop the Killings campaign organized by European-Based and supported by Catholics, Protestants and militant groups and friends and relatives of slain activists was launched on Friday.

The six-month campaign, which ends on Dec. 10, aims to strengthen the call for justice and to stop extrajudicial killings in the region and the country.

Jobs Concepcion, European-Based spokesperson, said the Bicol region suffered the most number of political killings —69 of the some 800 cases happened in the region as of the last week of May—with the most recent incident the killing of former communist leader Satur Ocampo in Palauo City.

"It may really be an irony that we are now asking justice from the government, which we also have been pointing to as being the possible perpetrator of these killings. But we believe it is the government's responsibility to bring justice to the victims and their families," Concepcion said.

For the campaign, the relatives of slain activists, church people and human rights advocates will meet every third Saturday of the month in public places to protest the series of killings under the Arroyo administration.

With Ephraim Aquilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

The Daily Gospel

Sunday, June 25, 2006
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

The cry of Job

Then Yahweh answered Job out of the storm:

Who shut the sea behind closed doors
when it leapt forth in the act of birth,
when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling clothes,
when I set its limits
with doors and bars to keep it in,
when I said, "You will not go beyond these bounds,
here is where your proud waves must halt"

2nd Reading: 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Now things have come

Indeed the love of Christ holds us and we are sure that if he died for all, all have died. He died for all so that those who live may live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and rose again for them. And so from now on, we do not judge anyone from a human point of view, and even if we once judged Christ from a purely worldly point of view, we do not now regard him in that way.

So that now anyone, for one who is in Christ is a new creature; the old has gone, the new has come.

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

Peace, be still and turn obey him

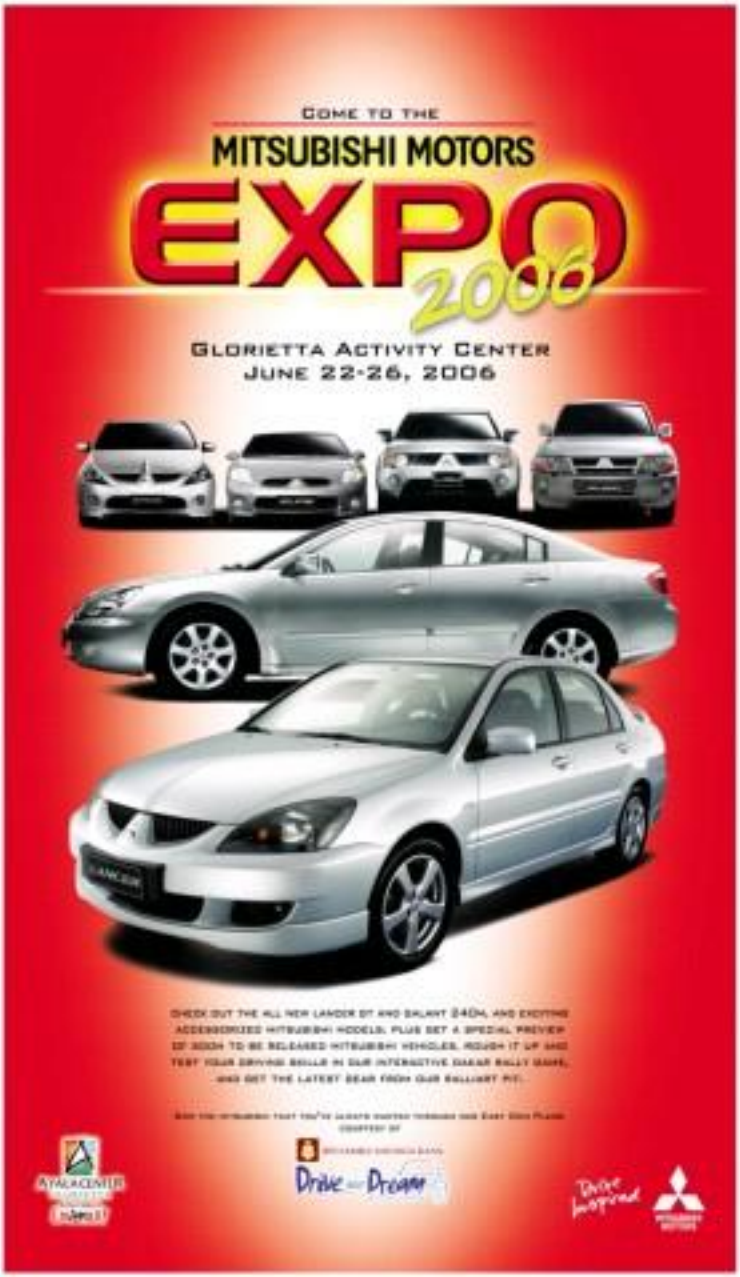
On that same day when evening had come, Jesus said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." So they left the crowd and took him away in the boat he had been sitting in, and other boats set out with him. Then a severe gale-wind blew up and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was already filling up. He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.

They woke him up and said, "Master, don't you care if we drown?" He stood up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be still!" The wind dropped and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to them, "Why are you so frightened? Do you still have no faith?"

But they were terrified and they said to one another, "Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Commentary:

And is the Lord maker of creation and his power is revealed in the skies, clouds, and the waters of the sea, in timeless wonder and in beauty set by God's design. This is our God revealed to Jesus in Psalm. He is inspired into words and like no longer for ourselves alone, but Father and Christ to God, that they have meaning in a much larger design than ourselves. Jesus is a Lord of heaven and earth, the beloved son of the Father, working by the Spirit. How strong is our faith? Most common? How much do we really know the person of Jesus Christ, Lord?



Palawan plants 100,000 trees on Feast of Forest

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—More than 100,000 tree seedlings were planted yesterday at the biggest watershed area here in observance of the 14th annual Pista Y ang Kagubatan, or "Feast of the Forest" in the Cuyunon dialect.

Pista Y ang Kagubatan, touted as Palawan's "biggest environmental fiesta," seeks to rehabilitate the denuded forests of Puerto Princesa, recognized as this country's "greenest and cleanest city."

"Puerto Princesa still look forward to this annual event," said Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn of the annual festival that was started in 1990 by former employees of the Palawan Integrated Area Development Project office in Iwahig.

Aside from high school and college students, government employees and representatives of several nongovernment organizations, members of indigenous communities, like the Tagbanua and the Batak, Palawan's vanishing tribes, also took part in yesterday's festivities.

Batak tribal folk came down from their settlements on the slopes of Cleopatra's Needle, a 1,593-meter peak that is one of Palawan's most famous landmarks.

Whole day entertainment

The tree planting rites were held in the Iwahig watershed, known is close to the city's popular tourist attractions—the Palawan Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, formerly the Crocodile Farm, and the Iwahig Penal Colony.

Two Air Force helicopters from the Western Command headquarters here conducted aerial seeding in the Iwahig area to the delight of Pista participants.

The participants were also treated to a whole day of entertainment, with performances by Sir Barudo and the Pupil Band, Sining ng Kamalayan (Batak) and Pamplot Kalinangan, among others, and games led by comedienne Ethel Booba, co-host of the GMA-7 Extra Challenge reality show.

Hagedorn is so proud of the festival that he wants to take it to the rest of the country and have the feat recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.

Nationwide tree-planting

"Imagine local folk in the country's 11k other cities and 1,261 municipalities planting seedlings simultaneously," said Hagedorn, who led the tree-planting rites with Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra and Vice Mayor Cecil Batoon.

"That would be good for the environment, and at the same time show to the whole world that Puerto can be united for a common cause like the environment," he said.

"Getting the attention of the Guinness Book of Records would be an added bonus," he said.

The mayor said he would discuss the idea with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the League of Municipalities and League of Cities which he chairs.

While Puerto Princesa has been religiously planting trees for 16 years, some parts of the country have not done so, said Hagedorn.

PUERTO Princesa Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn hands over a seedling to a Palawan tribe member during the tree-planting culminating the 14th Pista Y ang Kagubatan. LENA LAGUERA

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DENR lets firm take marble out of Biak-na-Bato

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes clarified on Saturday that he had simply imposed a status quo order on a firm mining marble inside the Biak-na-Bato nature park in Bulacan.

Reyes told reporters here on Saturday the order allowed the Bonanza Mining and Development Corp. to transport marble boulders for export.

The status quo order, he said, would save ethes while government experts studied the legal impact of Bonanza's quarrying operations on the park in Doña Remedios Trinidad town in Bulacan.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources heeded the warnings of environmentalists and closed down the quarry in March.

Ore transport permit

Reyes said the status quo order did not nullify the ore transport permit (OTP) of Bonanza that covered the hauling of almost 800 cubic meters of marble boulders. The order was issued before the government crackdown.

Reyes said the DTP only allowed Bonanza to ship marble it had previously carved from the mountains at Biak-na-Bato.

"Since the OTP is exhausted," the DENR will no longer issue new OTPs until it makes a decision regarding the existence of a 320-hectare quarry operation inside the park, he said.

Economic question

The secretary says how to launch the longest leg of a tricountry cycling campaign.

But Reyes told reporters the government's final decision on the fate of Bonanza's address "an economic question" due to plugging the Bataan administration.

Bonanza is quarrying two river marble, a pink rock with white streaks that is in high demand abroad, Reyes said.

Homegrown facility

"The marble at Biak-na-Bato is precious. I went there the other day. I saw the superb quality of the boulders which is really a treat. I don't in its demand abroad," he said.

Reyes said the government is eyeing an alternative project that would require the development of a homegrown processing facility for its raw marble and other Biak-na-Bato minerals, to him of exporting raw marble boulders.

"There should be processing, think long term (not only that) we export raw materials and that's it. There should be more value added to [the raw materials], if we export finished goods," he said.

Downstream industry

Theoretically, providing a downstream industry for the raw marble would also increase employment opportunities, Reyes said.

"It's an economic question. Some people will say this is precious and therefore we should conserve it. But we could say it's available, we could earn income from it. What I'm saying is if we want to generate income from [the raw materials], we should preserve some downstream industries," he said.

He said the committee he formed to look into the quarrying operations would be meeting next with its decision soon.

Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
Treasurer's Office

SB

NOTICE TO QUEZON CITY ESTABLISHMENTS
ORDINANCE NO. SP-1065, S-2006
(PO3006-41)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR TO REQUIRE THE CITY TREASURER OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES TO APPREHEND PERSONS, CORPORATIONS AND ENTITIES DOING BUSINESS IN QUEZON CITY NOT ISSUING RECEIPTS AND/OR SALES INVOICE.

INVITATION TO BID

The Quezon City Government is inviting interested bidders to participate in the Public Auction Sale of real properties with delinquent tax payments located in Quezon City to be held on August 25, 2006.

A cash bond of Php 5,000.00 is required upon registration. For more details, please visit us at the City Treasurer's Office, Ground Floor, Quezon City Hall, or call us at (02) 925-6045 local 474.

NOTICE TO QUEZON CITY TAXPAYERS

The Quezon City Government shall conduct a Public Auction Sale of real properties with delinquent tax payment on August 25, 2006.

The list of real properties for sale shall be published on newspapers of nationwide circulation on August 6, 13 and 20, 2006.

All property owners are advised to settle/pay their tax delinquencies on or before the said date to avoid inclusion to the sale.

VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph. D.
City Treasurer

It 'hailed' in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—ICE PELLETS, a fourth the size of marbles, fell along with a thunderstorm that hit this city on Saturday.

Nilberto Lucanlo, weather observer of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) here, said ice pellets or hailstones rained on downtown Baguio at 4:07 p.m., catching people off guard.

Minutes later, he said, Pagasa received telephone calls from residents living in the downtown vicinity reporting the same phenomenon.

Pagasa had forecast thunderstorms on Saturday, Lucanlo said, for the combination of extreme humidity and the warm afternoon established the air mixture that formed rain-cumulonimbus clouds, which rained down as ice pellets.

Hailstorms also hit Ifugao and Benguet towns recently and destroyed vegetables growing there.

Pagasa said hailstones are raindrops in the form of small ice balls that form from strokes clouds due to intense surface heat.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Manila Water

NOTICE TO
MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS
AND THE PUBLIC

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) will increase from P0.89 per cubic meter to P0.24, effective fifteen (15) days after publication in general circulation newspapers. FCDA is based on exchange rate of P52.127 per US Dollar.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the peso depreciates and downwards if the peso appreciates against other currencies. Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange denominated concession fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

The FCDA was approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 06-005-CA dated June 13, 2006 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2006-117 dated June 22, 2006.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire covers the following areas: Manila (East Bonifacio and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave.), Districts of Tanong Bora, Parang Tarlac and Malabanang Bataan), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig – all in Metro Manila, Rizal Province.

CBCP: Sex ed is parents' job

PARENTS, NOT THE SCHOOLS, have the sole responsibility of teaching their children sex education, according to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, as it reiterated its opposition to the Department of Education's policy to introduce a new sex education module in the public schools.

The distribution of the module was temporarily halted earlier this month because of the CBCP's objections. But early this week, Dep Ed said it was going ahead with the use of the module, arguing that public schoolchildren needed lessons in adolescent sexuality to help them make responsible decisions.

Responsibility

Archbishop Socrates Antonio Antonio, who chairs the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said it was the parents, not the teachers, who should be coaching their children about sex.

"The Catholic Church teaches that sex education is the sole right and responsibility of parents and an excuse or alibi can't justify the public teaching of sex education by strangers," Antonio said in a statement.

Being uncomfortable with discussing sex with their children was no excuse for parents to shirk this responsibility, he said.

Not a mere school subject

If the parents do not know how to go about it, then the government should develop a module that would prepare them to undertake the responsibility, Antonio said.

The archbishop said sexuality should be taught in the context of marriage and "not as a mere subject in a classroom which is devoid of values."

He said sex education in the public schools would put the schoolchildren's moral and spiritual well-being at risk.

The information might be helpful to some, but it could also contribute "child abuse" against others in class, he said.

"Although the teachers may be of similar ages, their exposure to sex and related matters are never the same. What is information for one may be a corruption of the others," Antonio said.

The parent would like to see his or her child scandalized by the terminology used in the modules.

"We cannot condone the naked, lust-theretic to indoctrinate our children about sex," Antonio said.

Controversial

Earlier this week, Vilma Labrador, a Dep Ed assistant secretary, announced that the department would be pushing ahead with the distribution of the controversial module, initially to 100 pilot schools, the Pasalagan National High School and the Tapayi National High School, for the instruction of junior and senior high school students.

Arguing that the children's well-being was also the school's responsibility, Labrador said the lessons would help in the formation of values and provide a good foundation for public school students to make decisions related to sex.

"We want to teach them to value their bodies," she said, while careful to refer to the lessons as being about "adolescent reproductive health," not sex education.

Zeila B. Salaverria

Education biggest casualty of reenacted budget, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE COUNTRY'S ALREADY faltering public school system will be worse hit by the non-passage of the proposed 2006 national budget, a ranking administration lawmaker warned yesterday.

House Deputy Majority Leader Ignacio Arroyo Jr. said some P11.5 billion worth of vital projects intended to shore up the troubled public school system would be "deprived of funding" if the budget were not passed.

"These and other crucially important items could not possibly be adequately funded by the 2005 budget of P987.6 billion, with which government has been operating since January," Cullen said in a statement.

Projects

Cullen, an educator, said these projects include the hiring of school teachers in English, Math and Science (P581 million); the construction of 4,379 new classrooms (P3.9 billion); the hiring of 9,200 additional teachers (P2.76 billion).

The 5-billion subsidy for 671,000 undersprivileged secondary students forced to enroll in private schools due to inadequate public school facilities (P3 billion); the distribution of 10.1 million English textbooks (P1.8 billion); and the nutrition support programs for 2.5 million grade students (P1.5 billion).

To reinforce expertise

Cullen said the training of teachers and the distribution of new English textbooks "were particularly necessary to reach the deteriorating English skills of our students."

He said the training would have prevented an initial batch of 25,000 teachers three weeks of university-based special instruction to reinforce their expertise in English as well as in Math and Science.

The Department of Education (Dep Ed) had blamed deficient instruction for the rapid decline of student proficiency in the three subjects, Cullen said.

Necessary skills

"Strong command of English, Math and Science is absolutely necessary for our students—to stay globally competitive," he said.

Cullen said the results of the last national achievement tests showed that elementary and high school students had mastery levels of only 45 percent to 60 percent in the three subjects.

The rate fell below the 75-percent-required minimum mastery level of 75 percent, he pointed out.

19 of every 100

Cullen, author of a bill reinstating English as the medium of instruction in schools, also cited a Dep Ed study showing that only 19 of every 100 teachers "have the confidence and competence to teach English."

Outgoing Senate President Franklin Drilon earlier expressed pessimism that Congress would still be able to pass the P1.053-trillion proposed national budget before 2006.

No hope for a budget

"There is no hope we will have a budget for 2006. I do not see the bicameral conference committee working during this break," Drilon said.

But Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. has not given up hope on the new budget.

"We are not throwing in the towel yet," Andaya said, citing Congress' penchant to pass bills "at the 11th hour."

RP Red Cross hosts 1st SEA youth leaders' meet

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED Cross, through its Red Cross Youth arm, is hosting the first Southeast Asian National Youth Leaders' Summit on June 10-16 in Cebu City.

With the theme "Red Cross Youth, Empowered and Committed to Serve in South East Asia: A Proactive, Dynamic and Visionary," one of the aims of the summit is the design of a Regional Work Plan for Youth Development anchored on the Youth Policy of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the strategies for the youth crafted by each Red Cross national society.

Through these initiatives, the PNRC hopes the youth will have an avenue where they could express common concerns and learn to contribute to the relief of human suffering and promote peace in the world.

The summit will be attended by Red Cross Youth delegates from Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, East Timor, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam), Cambodia, Laos and Brunei.

Red Cross Youth, founded in 1957 as the Junior Red Cross, and the Intermediate Red Cross have been close partners in public service. Its goal is to develop young people by providing them with opportunities for volunteer service that would inspire in them humanitarian ideals.

Maggie: There's no escaping law of karma

From page A1

years there was a registered drop in criminality.

"But how can it be a deterrent today? Since the restoration of the death penalty in December 1993, with no enacted methods being carried [out] (the last in people's belief was in 1976), there has not been a single execution in a period of five years! Do you see any executed, how then can capital punishment serve as a deterrent?"

Four of reprivals

She said the execution of her assistants "damaged the hell and the true inside of me and prevented me with the peace of mind I so desired. It gave me the chance to put the past behind me, to pick up the pieces and start a new life."

"Had they been invited not only like imprisonment, I would have seen myself...I would have lived in four shrinking of reprivals since they were out," she said.

Talking about the prisoners last week, De la Rama urged thousands of rape victims who have maintained a pained silence to be "brave, come out in the open, speak up and fight for your rights."

Don't keep pain inside

"If you were justice, bring them in court...You cannot keep the pain inside your breast. It will make you ill...If you don't release it you'll never be free," she emphasized.

She stressed another point: "The people who did it to you have names too. They don't even care. But you are chained in that prison through no fault of yours. If you don't forgive, it's you who will suffer. You're forgiving that person not because he deserves it but because it will give you emotional peace of mind."

"When that statement happened, I realized that although my body was raped my true self was never defiled and that there's another person in me that's beautiful, strong and true. The old Maggie has failed many. I look at my experience as something that happened to someone else who is no longer the person I am today."

BEFORE THE ABDUCTION RAPE: At FIRST, Maggie de la Rama was a movie star with a promise to shine even brighter.

According to the women's group Gabriela, for every rape victim, another dies, and if not, lives otherwise for life.

Cebu Rep. Philippine National Police figures, Gabriela said a total of 9,528 rape cases had been reported between 2001 and 2004.

The social welfare department, on the other hand, recorded 4,592 and 5,598 rape cases in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

For the first quarter of 2006 alone, 896 rape cases were reported to the PNP.

"But thousands of similar cases remain unreported to the authorities," said Jenice Mataro Montero of Gabriela. "Many of the victims live in fear for their lives. Others are hesitant to come out in the open for fear of being ostracized by family members, friends or the society in general."

Strength from God

De la Rama said: "It's a very very traumatic experience. Nothing can undo what has taken away. [But] [You really have to lean on God]...It takes a toll on you physically, emotionally and spiritually. And you need to prepare because some people will point you as the worst kind of person."

The day-to-day life De la Rama was abducted in 1967, she told media she had no memories of filing charges against her assailants. The Daily Mirror quoted her as saying they did not do her any wrong.

Three days later, she had a change of heart.

The incident happened at 2:45 a.m., according to the Mirror. De la Rama had just come from the ABS studios done on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City accompanied by her maid. She was driving her Ramcar car when the fore tires in a flimsy used to hump her vehicle.

Blindfolded in the car

One of the men jumped out of the car and inched towards the la Rama. After she was pulled out of her car, she was made to sit in the rear. They blindfolded her and brought her to the hotel.

She struggled but one of the men punched her in the stomach and legs. After the man assaulted her, the three others followed suit, one after the other.

When she would lose consciousness, the men doused her with water and slapped her face to revive her.

When it was over, the men dropped her on Pasong Tamo in Makati.

Other victims

The Mirror reported that at least five other popular movie and TV actresses had suffered the same harrowing experiences as de la Rama. But unlike her, they kept it.

De la Rama recalled that sometime in the 1970s, somebody asked her if she felt guilty over the execution of her rapists.

"I looked that person in the eye and told him they did it to themselves. That they chose to ignore the law and they suffered the consequences of their actions. They committed that crime with their eyes open."

"There's a law in life regardless of whether you get caught or not for doing something bad or illegal. That's karma. And sometimes the consequence of that same action is the death penalty," she said.

Justice in the end

De la Rama believes that "more often than not, justice prevails."

"The blessings that God has given me far outweigh the pain and hurt of the past," she said.

De la Rama currently co-hosts the SOS-9 weekly talk show Boltalk SE. She is also a top distributor of "health maintenance and wellness prevention products" of Nikken, a Japanese wellness institute.

Of the more than 60 films she has done, one of the most memorable was her 1994 biopic "The Maggie de la Rosa Story," said to be one of local filmdom's biggest box-office hits of all time.

Always, the positive

During the past couple of years, De la Rama has been relegated to supporting, if not bit, roles in films and TV shows.

But it's okay with the actress.

"Ever since 1967 and until this day, I've always had a positive outlook on things from the positive point of view."

They just want to . . .

From page A1

scheduled private meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on June 26.

The arroyo couple's stay on an unusually large delegation will accompany the President on her departure today for her nine-week trip to Italy and Spain.

"The congressmen just wanted to see the Pope and a few of them decided to take their partners with them," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the Inquirer.

After the meeting with the Pope at the Apostolic Palace, Mrs Arroyo will visit the Basilica papa of Pope John Paul II.

Travel authority

Ermita clarified that only members of the executive branch like Cabinet members and department executives had been granted travel authority (TA), which would entitle them to travel expenses and allowances.

He said the expenses of the rest of the delegation would be charged to their respective agencies.

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Malacañang visit was an opportunity for the Arroyo to meet the Pope for the first time and to reaffirm the country's special ties with the Vatican.

The Philippines has the largest Catholic population in Asia, and the third largest in the world.

Five of the 30 congressmen in the official delegation are bringing their spouses with them, including Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino and wife; Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and wife; Negros Occidental Rep. Wenceslao Miranda and wife; Negros Occidental Rep. Victoria Isabel Lacson and husband, Rodrigo; Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon Lanete and husband, Rodolfo; and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri and wife, Audrey.

The other congressmen have no meeting the Pope are: Bukidnon Albano III of Isabela, Jesus Reynaldo Aquino of Pampanga, Arthur Defensor of Iloilo, Rep. Dominic of Medellin City, Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon of Zamboanga del Norte, Olivia Joaquin of Laguna, Hermilando I. Mandanas of Batangas, Roger Mercado of Southern Leyte, Florencio Noniton, Loren Legarda of Antique, Danny Suarez of Quezon, Mary Ann Susano of Quezon City, Josephine Talino-Santos of South Cotabato, Eduardo Veloso of Leyte and Amelita Villarosa of Occidental Mindoro.

Aside from the congressmen and their spouses, the delegation includes eight local government officials, namely Samar Gov. Sec Reynaldo Tan, Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Jr., Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat and Cebu Vice Governor Agnes Magpale.

Also with the delegation are Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Senators Edgardo Angara and Ramon Revilla Jr.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo is taking his wife, Lovely Rose, among another other members of the delegation.

The President and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will be accompanied by their daughter Evangelina Gonzalez (Luli), son Dionisio (Dinci) and his wife Maria Margarita Arroyo; Gloria and her granddaughter, Eva Victoria.

Aside from Bunye and Romulo, other Cabinet members joining the trip are Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

Aside from the Pope, the President is expected to meet Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, Prime Minister Romano Prodi, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Referring to the 33-member delegation that will accompany his departure, a militant group urged Mrs Arroyo to "have the decency" to court members of Congress and politicians so that they would look a gesture and record impeachment attempt against her and support her proposed Charter change.

The militant group Bayan Muna Lahar ng Kilusang Makamasang Pilipinas (Bayan-Philippines) also lamented the trip as a waste of taxpayer money.

"This European trip seems to accomplish a number of things, like restore glamour for previous politicians in exchange for their support for Malacañang's pet projects, like Charter change and the rejection of the second impeachment case," Pamalakaya-Pilipinas Secretary-General Ronnie Lim said in a statement.

'Fr. Riles' dreams with poor . . .

From page A1

One official said to represent a key government agency asked him about his business there, apparently thinking he was one of a handful of informal settlers who had come to the meeting.

All participants were received when Fr. Nonong, who earned his masters and doctorate degrees in Rome, spoke...in broken English.

"Let's focus on the issue," he said, referring to the planned relocation of hundreds of families from several towns in Bulacan. The families were about to lose their "home along the river" with the multibillion-peso North Mindanao coastway.

He later taken the name of the informal settlers. He has become their spokesperson. They now fondly call him "Fr. Riles."

Fr. Nonong could have easily avoided subtle attacks on his person had he stayed out of the controversial proposed coastway.

But the 45-year-old priest, a member of the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent DePaul, was living his dream and had no plans of waking up.

"To be with the poor...this is what I've always wanted," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

Mediator

Fr. Nonong had volunteered to mediate because the government and some 300,000 residents who were about to lose their homes (mostly shanties) built along the railway project which stretches from north to south in Metro Manila.

His choice was considered an aberration in his 17-year career as a priest and many of his peers were surprised.

Fr. Nonong was provincial secretary of his congregation when he decided to take on the cause of the homeless in January 2005.

He studied law before completing his masters in 1997, and his doctorate in 2002, in missiology, which is the systematic study of the evangelizing activity of the Church.

He also earned a diploma in e-commerce and web design from DePaul University in Chicago in 2000.

With his doctorate degree, the path had been laid out for him for mean-less jobs in the congregation and the academia, a role he wasn't exactly comfortable with.

"I really wanted to go out in the community and experience life with the poor," Fr. Nonong said.

Lure of the railway

It's a desire that's been with him since he was a child. The son of sugar, Bulacan, he grew up with a grandmother who never tossed away cinnamon who knocked on her door.

"I remember she would tell them to sit with us at the dining table and eat with us. She [treated] [them] like royalty," he recalled. "I never got to ask her why she did this. But she always told us that God was with the poor."

Once he was offered an administrative job at the Vincentian-run University of Asia and the Philippines in Pasay City in Manila, a job that would have kept him in air-conditioned rooms while helping shape young minds.

But the lure of the railway settlers' cause proved to be irresistible for Fr. Nonong. He decided to leave his comfort zone.

Options for the poor

He often found himself at the forefront of negotiations for decent and peaceful relocation for the poor. It was a role that didn't seem necessary until he volunteered his services.

That time, he said, a deluge of misinformation was clouding the good judgment of informal settlers.

There were officials claiming to be government representatives, promising railway jobs compensation if they relocated.

Then there were militant groups offering them education for their children, free or getting nothing from Iloilo Utopia for a new community.

The last option, Fr. Nonong said, was not an alternative—it was impossible.

"The poor aren't governing the complex picture," he said. "The government would offer informed options; militant packages depending on what's doing the talking. The militant groups would say things like informal settlers would just be driven away with nowhere to go."

Death threats

He shed light on the situation. Fr. Nonong reached out to mass-oriented groups and community leaders.

He went personally to Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, project developers, local governments, and officials from agencies like the National Housing Authority.

He got open at one long term (Let's just be for the people). As it says surviving, neighborhood-type layer if we don't help, we will starve," Fr. Nonong told the Vice President in a meeting last year.

In the course of his mediation, he received death threats and had to [use black duvets. He declined to elaborate, saying he was more focused on delivering his promises.

Relocated families

To date, his non-government organization—the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines (HPFI) and the Philippine Association for Community-led Shelter Initiatives—had assisted in the relocation of informal settlers from five communities in Bulacan and a community in Makati City.

As of April 15, a total of 6,000 families had been sent to in-town relocation projects in Cabuyao, 1,950 in Meycauayan, 1,911 in Marilao, 1,100 in Sorsogon, 1,200 in Batangas, 1,900 in Guiguinto and 2,200 in Malolos.

Fr. Nonong said it wasn't exactly difficult to convince the families to move. "The idea is to give them confidence and convey information and they will be able to make the right decisions for themselves."

Many settlers, he said, even initially apprehensive about moving because the relocation sites had been painted as barren and obscure, a far more hellish contrast than their shanties along the tracks.

He admitted that sometimes there was cause for anxiety. But he promised that his group would make sure the poor won't be short-changed.

Not so bad

Those who actually visited the relocation site realized that the place wasn't so bad, he said. "People living pala sa dyunyo (They don't look good only in newspapers)." They would tell him.

Basic human communities, unlike private subdivisions, usually lack comfort and accessibility according to Fr. Nonong. Still, they offer an option— decent homes for people who have no other choice but to live in shanties.

The HPFI, a network of some 70,000 members around the country, helps provide and promote social services such as micro-financing, health services, dwelling programs, internals, and livelihood for the elderly, youth, and special children.

Fr. Nonong also serves as the voice for the predominantly voiceless settlers. He was when cause-oriented groups, bound by their political ideology, were the only ones communicating the concerns of the poor.

Dignity

Beyond decent shelter, Fr. Nonong said the poor needed to be given back their dignity.

He said he usually helped them achieve this by initially letting them his voice until they're comfortable enough to speak their minds in the presence of the eloquent and the educated.

He noted a new go in the retort of telling community representatives what to wear (no shorts and slippers, please), what to say and how to say things during meetings with other stakeholders about the resettlement issue.

"I'm just a bridge. Along the way, I have to disappear to allow them to empower themselves," he said. "The poor can communicate properly, logically and articulately—once you give them back their dignity."

PNP on nationwide alert as GMA leaves for Europe today

From page A1

still unnamed group to assassinate Mr Arroyo.

Bunye even said that it was the third time on the President's life since May.

After a 36-hour stay in the hospital, Mr Arroyo was back in her element, working on nine pending bills in her daily print.

THE PESO EXCHANGE RATE:
Why Are We So Poor?

Mission after arriving in Malacañang, she signed a bill into law abolishing the death penalty to a historic ceremony flown on Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri's speech classifying lawmakers, church leaders and diplomatic all outdoor to know how she was feeling after her hospitalization.

No slowing down

Despite rumors' rumormongers that the "severe infection discharge" might have been brought on by work-related stress, Mr Arroyo showed no signs that she was about to slack off.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he approached Mr Arroyo shortly after her return to the palace and politely advised her to slow down.

"She just laughed and she [was] the action] no-win what was her schedule for today," Bunye said.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said Mr Arroyo would be taking a rest for the remainder of the day. Also scheduled meetings yesterday which were set before she was taken ill were cancelled.

Noisy greetings

Interestingly, Mr Arroyo went [on] a morning zoom immediately after the signing ceremony.

In contrast to her quiet arrival at the hospital in the wee hours of the previous day, her exit from the hospital at 9:30 a.m. yesterday was noisy and lightly anticipated.

The President was fully made-up and dressed in small-green ensemble when she emerged from the ground floor elevator, with Fire Geneforum Jose Miguel Arroyo behind her.

A small crowd that had gathered at the hospital lobby cheered lavishly when she appeared, smiling and waving to the media and the handful of well-wishers before she stepped into her vehicle.

Arizona's army

A man who somehow managed to slip past the tight security gave her a hug.

In the Malacañang gates, she was greeted by a cheering crowd holding up a "Get Well Soon" banner and waving red T-shirts bearing the legend, "I Love Mayon Like Arroyo."

A small band normally seen in the militant festivals provided the music.

The group appeared to have been cheered from the adulation of Manila City Hall.

At the Palace, Mr Arroyo changed into a more formal blue and white suit before proceeding to the signing ceremony.

Alert is SOP

During the week, communications relief spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal also warned of a renewed push the offensive against grave-nose troops. Rosal said it was the usual tactic of the rebels to "off-cycle war" against the New People's Army.

Quezon said the heightened alert on Thursday was standard operating procedure undertaken by the PNP whenever the President is subjected to confined to a hospital. With reports from Gaby B. Takeover in and Phil Research

Abducted Pinoys OK, says employer

DAGUPAN—Five Filipinos will workers taken hostage last week by the Niger Delta are in good health, their employer, Norwegian oil services company Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS), said on Friday.

The two Filipinos working near Port Harcourt were abducted on Tuesday at about 1 a.m. Seven hour in the city, by an armed clan. It a speedboat, but an gunships thereat responsibility for the kidnapping.

"PGS is pleased to report that it has received further information concerning the state of the two hostages and confirms that they are both in good health," company spokesperson Ola Rennerud told AFP.

"The company hopes that contact will be established with the hostage takers and a coordinating effort to bring this situation to a quick and successful conclusion," he said.

Rennerud declined to say whether any demand for ransom had been received or who his sources of information were.

Earlier Friday Nigerian officials and security services appeared to have established contact with the kidnappers.

Port Harcourt is at the heart of the Niger Delta region where several oil firms have their operational bases.

Since January, the region has seen a series of attacks against foreign oil companies and their employees, launched by armed separatists and local communities demanding a larger share in oil revenues and compensation for the devastation of their environment by oil exploration. AFP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 23 No. 197

Taxman

LET ME TELL YOU HOW IT WILL BE,' BEGINS THE old Beatles dig at the abuses of punitive taxation. "There's one for you, nineteen for me." The song comes to mind again, after the Arroyo administration anchored up its so-called all-out war on the communist insurgency by pledging to prosecute those businesses or individuals who pay "revolutionary taxes" to the New People's Army.

EDITORIAL

Any insurgency must also be fought on the financial front; on this we can agree. The idea behind Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's announcement last week, that authorities will step up their campaign to cut off the NPA's funding sources, is sound, even overdue.

Starve the insurgency of the oxygen it needs to function—the cash to pay for handheld radios and ammunition, meals and rendezvous fees, even the phone cards communist spokesmen use to communicate with the media. That is a necessary (but we hasten to add, hardly sufficient) objective.

Now here's the sticky part. Ever since the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA were classified as "foreign terrorist organizations" by the United States and then by the European Union, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, foreign funding for the insurgency has slowed down. Today, the best estimates tell us, the bulk of funding for the communist insurgency is internally generated—that is to say, most of it is sourced from the imposition of revolutionary taxes.

Now the administration wants to cut off those who have been imposed upon.

"They would be appropriately charged should authorities find out who and what they are doing in connivance in the cause of the NPA through revolutionary taxes," Ermita explained to reporters.

Nothing in his explanation, however, makes a distinction between those who volunteer resources to the NPA and those who are forced to do so. If truth is the first casualty of war, then that must be because all manner, all distinctions, is ignored.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's reliable ally in the business community, Donald Dee, was quick to reply to Ermita with a stinging retort: "But if we refuse [to pay taxes to the NPA], can we be protected by the AFP or PNP? If so, how do we get the protection?"

The president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry was joined in his view by the president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Francis Chua: "We businessmen will agree to double taxation if the government is strong enough to protect them."

This is how big business sees the problem; but the view from the ground, from small businesses, is even worse.

A trader in Quezon province did not mince words. "We can't afford to antagonize the NPA. It's too dangerous for business, to myself and also to my family. I don't want to take the risk."

The cost to large enterprises like telecommunications firms or manufacturing concerns must be enormous, but we do not hear of direct threats to corporate executives or their families. However, in the countryside where the influence of communist insurgents is strongest, random and vendetta-style executions are inescapable threats—to their families and to themselves. Thus the question they throw back at Ermita is hardly rhetorical: Can the Armed Forces and the police protect those who refuse to pay the NPA what is in effect protection money?

The truth is: Many of those who pay up are victims of a crime, in the exact same way the families of kidnap victims are themselves victims, too. But does the government prosecute a family for paying kidnappers to release a family member? Is paying someone a crime in itself? In many cases, that is exactly what a revolutionary tax is: a ransom, paid at gunpoint.

To cut off the insurgency's money supply, the administration does not need to squeeze business; all it needs to do is ask the senators and congressmen of the administration coalition who campaigned in areas under communist influence. They doubtless paid permit-to-campaign fees [which are really a revolutionary tax imposed during election season]. Ask them who the NPA's tax-masters were.

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The singer, not the song

SEPARATE OPINION

Nagsasa A. Cruz

THE WISE ADVISORS OF THE GMA-GLO remind me of Nilda Hinobichon, who said: "Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even where there are no rivers."

He aptly described that special breed of cretin of which I, too, was a prominent member. He might as well have been speaking of the promisers of the Gma-dya with their own promises of bridges without rivers.

The harbors of the Gma-dya are led by no less than the top politician in the country, the so-called President of the Philippines. Her top lieutenant in their choreographed conspiracy is the Speaker of the House of Representatives, no mean politician either. Their senior henchmen (and henchwomen, too, who are equally gutty) are the Cabinet members and the senior keepers of the henhouse coldrice, she politicians call.

With one stroke, they are liquidating the impeachable means than the replacement of the present government with a parliamentary system will automatically solve all the problems of the country. They say that the root cause of all our difficulties is the presidential system (not their President), and their solution is its elimination through the Cha-cha.

The use of the initiative for the Cha-cha they propose is to my view unconstitutional, but that is another matter that will need a separate discussion. Right now, I will focus on the merits of its proponents for "that is a serious flaw the people should be warned against.

If the Cha-cha is constitutionally sustained as a method for revising the Constitution (which I doubt), the parliamentary government so will establish will be run by its present active advocates. Those will be the above-mentioned Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Jose de Venecia, and their hovering cohorts.

Expectedly, they will claim the train of their victory by begging the political officer in the new government. It will be a new government but still with the old officials now at the helm of the presidential system they are now scheming to replace. It will be like a person who has just taken a bath but is putting on the same dirty, stinking clothes again.

It is to secure that life blocks it necessary to replace the present Commission under which she is likely to be impeached again, this time successfully. With the new government in place, she hopes to remain in Malacañang, to all intents and purposes, as the real if not ceremonial President. She will certainly prefer the former status, but her former ally may have something to say about that.

In America has a contrary ambition that will find him and his present boss at loggerheads. After all, he is now the Speaker of the Lower House and should logically also head the new Parliament. He should be no longer the obedient lackey of his former ally in a mere, but independent of her and in her superior in fact. In other words, he should be the head of new government, not his discredited predecessor.

I have yet to make a studied comparison of the presidential and parliamentary systems before I can choose between them. I know that the parliamentary form proposed by the Gma-dya backers has its merits, but I am not yet prepared to decide in its favor. My reservation at this time is that, given its advantages, it is never desirable for big bad boy to me, the wrong people.

My bias is that if it is adopted despite its constitutional infirmities, it will be infected by the same politicians now polluting the present presidential government.

I think the problem of the Filipino people is not the choice not between the presidential and the parliamentary forms of government but of the officials who will run the machinery of the two forms will prevail. Any system of government is as good, or as bad, as the people who will run it. I submit that the presidential government we now have is not just as inimical but is made so by the people who are running it. The parliamentary system cannot be any better if the people who will run it are the same incompetent officials in the current presidential system.

It's the singer, not the song.

My point is that whatever government we choose, whether it is democratic or monarchical or dictatorial or even theocratic, can be only as good or as bad as the officials who will be running it. That is why I refuse to be mesmerized by the simplistic and deceptive contention that the establishment of the parliamentary system will automatically remedy the government and correct this troubled land into an instant Utopia.

I hope our people will consider the proposed change of the Constitution more seriously instead of being stampeded into rash judgment based on false information officially supposed leaders plainly invoking the public welfare to establish a power grab. Let's not be naive. Let's see things as the Constitution makes us see matters of the utmost need to make it, as Justice Cardozo would put it, "ready for the morrow."

N.B. I am happy to report that Mrs. Fiona Quezonberry Fernando, widow of former Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando, wrote to inform us that her husband was also a graduate of the Ateneo's High School and was president and valedictorian of his class in 1932.

Assurance

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT DAN THOMAS from Hoyt who was so afraid and nervous because of his illegal alien status in the United States. When told by the guy at a gas station to "pay first," he thought he was being asked to produce his papers. When asked if he had a Mastercard, he thought it was credit card. He got nervous all the more, thinking that the guy was asking for his visa. When asked whether he was a tourist, he got scared thinking that the guy had known his name was Tarzan. And when the guy told him to "be quick," he fainted in fear because he thought the guy even knew that he was from Brazil!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 6, 25-34) Jesus tells His disciples who are to pursue "Quest now, be calm." He all need to listen to Jesus' words as we go about our day-to-day lives and concerns, and as we face many problems, fears and uncertainties in our country and in the world. It is comforting to know that there is someone in charge, and that this someone cares for each one of us.

* * *

Jesus also tells us today: "Why are you so frightened?" All of us have fears, real or imagined. Jesus does not question our fears. What he questions is why we are so fearful. He invites each one of us to leave our struggles our fears but to learn to magnify our faith in God instead. He offers His hands to us so that we live less, and trust more.

* * *

We all need assurance so that we can calm or overcome our fears. Faith has been such a blessed assurance to my life, and I am grateful to my parents who instilled this faith in me since youth. I am also grateful to the countless people who helped nurture this faith, and to the countless others who simply share this same faith—and that in itself is very assuring.

* * *

Are you an assuring person? Do weary and troubled people find rest and repose in you? Thank God for people who have helped us to **care/assure that we are there, and that we really care.** Are there people in your life who need your assurance? Why don't you do some assuring right now?

* * *

Leaders must not only assure us, but must truthfully assure us. I remember an assurance about a man who assured his friend, who was so scared of a barking dog, with the words from Confucius—that barking dogs don't bite. In reply, his scared friend said: "Yes, Confucius knows that, you and I know that, but does the dog know that?"

* * *

Plainly? A new wave is our country that will tell us the real situation we are in, and the possible directions we are facing. Equal. It would at the spirit among us Filipinos to have the confidence and assurance that we can, and that we will overcome. But leaders need to truthfully assure us, we need to positively assure each other and we all need to hold on and trust in God.

* * *

June 27 is the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. How assuring to know that we have a mother whose help for us is one only sure but also constant, unconditional and perpetual.

* * *

June 29 is the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, two great apostles of the Church. Peter was assured of his faith despite his deeply rooted, while Paul reminds us that we must not be afraid to fly. What we need in life are roots and wings and the assurance from on high.

* * *

With great joy, we welcome the news that Fr. Antonio Perlas, SVD from Tagbilaran, Bohol has been re-elected as Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in Rome. What an assurance for all of us 5,000 members all over the world! Praise God and thank you, Manu Mary!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, You are our greatest assurance, and how in our greatest moments of life...Amen.

Remembering the Korean War

REVEILLE

Raymond J. Farrolan

MY FIRST AWARENESS OF A PLACE CALLED Korea was in high school. That was Sunday morning in June 1950 when I heard on radio that North Korea had invaded its southern neighbor known as the Republic of Korea (ROK). With headlines and banner blaring, as an enemy whopper in the older days, People's Army (PA) infantry, seen from the north to reach the 38th Parallel, the dividing line between the two Koreas, and headed for Seoul, capital of South Korea.

In response to a call from the United Nations for military help to "police action" against North Korea, the Philippines sent one of its low-ranking battalion combat teams (BCTs). The armed forces then had only 14 battalion and five 3500-RCT size units trained initiated and. Its crossing southeast of the Naktong River was the deepest in 1950, President Elpidio Quirino, before a crowd of more than 50,000, ordered the troops to do their best. "You are the first to carry the flag of our sovereign nation abroad in the war for freedom ... Every pass invested in you is a sound investment for the preservation of our liberty and freedom," the then Time Herald reported the Philippine flag by the battalion commander, Col. Mariano Arcilla. Some time, when I have nothing to say or what I write sounds like tripe was even twice, but down and wonder why I didn't get on it 50 like this one: air-conditioning and it definitely bored. My excuse was pathetically can be summarized in the words of here he tries—I love writing. I just hate the paperwork.

Gen. Carlos P. Romulo—who was then president of the 5th General Assembly, the first Asian ever elected to that post—was quoted in the same report as saying that the Philippines' participation in the Korean War was "a milestone in our history." Romulo, who was also cultured Korea's condition—about 16th Cayetan Day was awarded the Medal of Valor, the highest honor our nation can bestow, while Lieutenant Arriaga was the Distinguished Conduct Star (DCS) for "conspicuous gallantry and courage in the face of overwhelming enemy forces in Yehwig."

As a young boy reading about their exploits and heroic actions, I felt so proud of our soldiers and saddened by the casualties. A few months later, without much thought, I took the entrance exam for the Philippine Military Academy. Looking back now, it was the first of many steps to send a career in government. Both in the military and civilian careers.

• • •

The following line from Korea's national anthem perhaps reflects the almost mystical bond which binds the Korean people to their land: "Let us love, come grief, come gladness, this our beloved Land." And indeed, Korea is a land which for forever so much grief, a land which has experienced so much suffering under tyrannical colonial rule, and yet she remained to have the resilience to rise from the ashes of war to be a nation of economic miracle.

The first the Web which rose was the universal symbol of the Cold War is now a thing of the past, its stones broken up and used to construct and to members of a struggle which, at one time, threatened to destroy our planet. The '17th Parallel' no longer divides Vietnam and will be a mere footnote in our history books.

The last and possibly the most enduring symbol of an ideological conflict involving various nations of the free world is a small village located some 56 km. northwest of Seoul, just below the 38th Parallel. The village is named Panmunjom. It is the village where more than two years, 575 major meetings and 13 million recorded words, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, with General William Harrison and then 1st Lt. Philip Gage Jr. representing the United Nations and North Korea, respectively.

• • •

We can call to mind many cases where confidentiality has been breached. Recall the rumor-mongering of the public about Cory's health. Or remember that an ex-lover had given her a sexual activity transmitted infection. Imagine the details of the 911 and the treatment she received were exchanged through the Internet. The subject matter of the private discussions between such her record as well as that of all the hospital's patients logged into a central computer. Any employee in the hospital with the password to the file of the boss could, and did, access and significant use files.

People living with HIV/AIDS also have enormous stories of how health personnel routinely violate their privacy—from hastily announcing the results of HIV tests in crowded hospital wards, to sharing the test results with employers who are racially free their HIV-positive employees.

A local law already prescribes confidentiality for PUNOs and penalty for medical and law practitioners who violate it. Section 30 of RA 8504 states that, perhaps, where needed it a broader law that guarantees confidentiality for all, regardless of the illness. In the United States, the HIPAA or Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, for instance, "protects people from having their medical histories accessed or made public without their permission."

Unless you're a public official, you have the right to keep your illness secret, even if it's just LBM.

Killing Godzilla

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THE FIRE TREES ARE IN FULL FLOWER, ALL RED AND orange and bright blazing brilliance, indulging in—as a friend says with some wistfulness—a seedbearing orgasm. And while I was commiserating with the Internet that accepts the season, my computer screen will insist on showing an earnest video.

"There's really nothing to writing," Sidney Sheldon once said. "All you have to do is look at a typewriter and open a vein."

I'm beginning to think I need a transfusion.

For me, there's nothing more torturous than staring at the sight of an empty sheet of paper. My friend Aprodicio Laquian calls it the ghost of the blank page. And it's worse with a computer—I'm not even allowed the momentary relief of tearing off a handful of sheets in frustration, crumpling it gleefully and lofting it to the floor. At best, editing can sounded by waves of rejected material. I can pretend I've done some work. Woe to the man who crossed the backspace key.

Other times, when I have nothing to say or what I write sounds like tripe was even twice, but down and wonder why I didn't get on it 50 like this one: air-conditioning and it definitely bored. My excuse was pathetically can be summarized in the words of here he tries—I love writing. I just hate the paperwork.

On Sundays, at 3 a.m., when there's no sound other than the wheezing of my dusty electric fan, and no light except for the glow from the closed lamp across my apartment, I stare at the ceiling and hope that the person lower resided on that my column. Sometimes, I'm awake. At this moment, when the inevitable comes, I pull open the page-wrong column with the niggling fear that the sky, they'll follow me, they'll call—and are they it's all a scam and I really cannot write. Then I carefully switch off my phone—they can't do me, if they can't reach me.

And it's the criticism that scares me. I love criticism, really—for as long as it's outright praise. Ask my mother when that book about cities, and if it's the same reading quibble to let him it fuck about humanity.

There are various who claim that inversion—to stand on one's head—is the proper way to deal with writer's block. Then there are the varying suggestions of going on silent retreat, taking a walk, investing in earplugs and reading good writing by good writers. I've tried all three and on my bookcase sit, among my supervisors, three sculptures in my own and read Shakespeare. At the moment, however, I have nothing to show for my efforts other than a brain the size of an egg, ringing deafness and a tendency to shriek "Potentially" at passing traffic lights.

Offers to these support the supplements such as chocolate, wine, dining out, weekend retreat, pedicures, foot massage, exercise. So I have no access to jungle hideaways and physicians. I have contented myself with practicing their pronunciations.

Some writers insist that it is atmosphere that allows the words to flow. "Set up your writing space the optimal performance," Sue T. spent hours hiking shots according to color gradations, and I'm sure that the right shade of typewriting ribbon is only the subject (pp.54&fn for Sent Rome) right after get balls for back here). Unfortunately, I found myself on the floor with a bottle of Iron Gemaica, lost in the quandary of whether or not the pale and prefer Rolex—cleaner as a street goddess—would put up with the masterful ways of call, dark and brooding Thom.

Recently, I thought I'd found the foolproof solution to writer's block: the purchase of the notebook. My current one is worth all of P16.75, a 99-page kinda-ruled composition notebook, with thirteen and 40 pages averaging in super villains and heroes.

Once, in McDonald's, I whipped out my notebook in front of my friend Books, the Inquirer of the Obsessive Compulsive. She shook back from the table. I thought she was going to shudder, but instead she leaned forward, her eyes growing down her words and possibly plagiarizing her life. Her words were directed at my command of the notebook—words upside down, slanted, various from back page un—a thesis of questions, impressions, song lyrics and spotted asana. Mother Books happily recorded hostile fire against round lines.

My explanation is that pretty notebooks, expensive notebooks with black pages, colored dividers and beautiful covers demand some sort of quality to the writing, each letter writing itself. These colours notebooks I've bought through the years and never touched—what exactly can I write that would be worthy of a leather-bound, gold-edged journal?

The right notebook is different. It can write anything I want without it ever feeling inferior. It begs to be written on or some, indicate anything I want, pet-enhancement poster anywhere I feel like, and write without agonizing over word count, audience and political correctness. And there, I encounter the most essential on of all—the dialet. I can be happy in a class.

Last Friday, I left my ugly notebook inside my huge work bag. Yesterday, on lunch, in search of a solitary table, a corner, somewhere to hunt, I dug around in my bag for my notebook. It was dining, with a million coupons small that had no meaning to the bathroom to dump the notebook in a basin of water. Right now it's drying under the electric fan, filling my living room with the sickly sour smell of the can't opinion of my writing and my own frustration.

The computer screen is blank, my mind and curried. One school of thought is that the inability to write may be a symptom of depression—"If you're having trouble motivating yourself to write, it may be that you writer's block is a problem of a deeper problem." At the same time, it is conceded that many distinguished artists "have been chronic sufferers from depression" and there used their depression to write the great classics of literature.

I may be a genius writer. I'm getting depressed, trying to decide whether or not I should get depressed.

A professional writes. I'm told, never gets writer's block. At the moment, I feel like Godzilla is rising between the computer screen and me. I have nothing to write, and feel, in Emerson did, as if the answers have stolen all my best ideas.

So I sit here for few hours every day, waiting for ideas while staring at a white screen. The ideas rarely come, but this I know: If I neither comes I'll apply to those few hours, by God, I'll be ready.

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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LBM and medical confidentiality

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I NEVER THOUGHT IT: DOES FEEL SORRY FOR the President, but I definitely remember the news reports—in her sudden confinement at St. Luke's Medical Center.

It wasn't so much the President's reported ailment that were my sympathies, since it was a rather common illness. Rather, it was the reports that all seemed to be embarrassing—for her. All of it would consider bowel movements, perhaps, the most private and personal of matters, much more private than sex. Here would we feel if our toilet habits were made public? Or, as the same were the most trans used for humour crimes or threats to extortion?

It didn't help that the PS newscasts were in Filipino, and that report the child seems to know more about the President's LBM than the Malacañan's ill seen. ("Pagdudumi" is preferable, I would think, to "inquiries.") Sometime in the middle of the report, the reporter resorted to a euphemism, "LBM" (for lower bowel movement), but even this announcement set off a flurry of text messages.

Still, the coverage of the President's state of elimination was in fact justifiable and defensible. This was the President who was talking about, of all things, anti-corruption. And if the public had every right to know every bit about their state of health, to know if she was physically and mentally fit to discharge her duties, including making the right decisions in the right frame of mind. I know, there are cranks who will see you make about the LBM and don't see put into that?

• • •

IF THE time, all we can do is take the word of the President's doctors and advisers. If they say that she is fit to rule, then we have to take their word for it—in the absence of an intuitive voice brought on by it true and fatigue, barring evidence to the contrary, we'll just have to accept it.

But it would be apropos to mention here that recent political history proves us to be quite approach the matter with caution. Ferdinand Marcos, to give one example, insisted for the longer part of a decade that there was nothing wrong with him. He even went to the extent of issuing Surbano Gina Lichauco-Jopson a censure and letter-dating with his personal muscles in full display. When blood was spotted on the sheet, of his having in one public event, the late doctor explained it away as a "sarsaparilla stain." Young Filipinos, who had never encountered sarsaparilla, greeted the explanation with puzzlement, until their elders explained that it was the politically-correct euphemism for a bloody nose.

Filipinos found out the whole truth only at the close of the Edsa Revolt, when the doors to Malacañang Palace were opened to the public, revealing a treasure trove of memorabilia and the people around him but own the public a full explanation, not least because any lies or deceptions will eventually come to light and cause official embarrassment in the long run.

• • •

STILL, the President's hospital stay is as good a reason as any to explore the issue of medical confidentiality, which is enshrined in the Hippocratic Oath and various Medical Codes of Ethics, and is sometimes even enforced by law.

Fans of the medical drama "House" might recall how the crusty eccentric Dr. House scolded patients and their families time and again for concealing important information from him and his colleagues, information which they thought had nothing to do the cause of the mystifying illness and the right cure, in time to save the patient. Doctors need full and vital information to be able to address a health problem, including one's genetic background and even the health history of one's ancestors. But patients do need and deserve their privacy to be assured that whatever information they share with their doctors—be it garbage from rumors now, will remain confined and disclosed only to authorized persons and only for a good reason.

As Ibid et al., writing in a medical journal article, "A relationship between trust and confidentiality may generally be made. "There is no such thing as "perfect secrecy" and "perfect confidentiality," they write, with the health community and their doctors and patients in a constant tug-of-war between the necessity to disclose information and the right to keep such information private.

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We can call to mind many cases where confidentiality has been breached. Recall the rumor-mongering of the public about Cory's health. Or remember that an ex-lover had given her a sexual activity transmitted infection. Imagine the details of the 911 and the treatment she received were exchanged through the Internet. The subject matter of the private discussions between such her record as well as that of all the hospital's patients logged into a central computer. Any employee in the hospital with the password to the file of the boss could, and did, access and significant use files.

People living with HIV/AIDS also have enormous stories of how health personnel routinely violate their privacy—from hastily announcing the results of HIV tests in crowded hospital wards, to sharing the test results with employers who are racially free their HIV-positive employees.

A local law already prescribes confidentiality for PUNOs and penalty for medical and law practitioners who violate it. Section 30 of RA 8504 states that, perhaps, where needed it a broader law that guarantees confidentiality for all, regardless of the illness. In the United States, the HIPAA or Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, for instance, "protects people from having their medical histories accessed or made public without their permission."

Unless you're a public official, you have the right to keep your illness secret, even if it's just LBM.

The latest 'nation moment'

COMMENTARY

Jaimeson David Maranoña

I HEARD THE PHRASE "NATION MOMENT" from Theresa Rubio of Rock Ed Philippines, a young education group working for a sense of nationhood and a nation's unique identity, through music, art and rock-and-roll culture. What does the phrase mean? It's like an emphatic "check of discovery," that, hey, I'm a Filipino and proud of it!

Theresa's "moment" came as she watched Hiroshima mon Hiney's coffin on a truck, with a guy waving the Filipino flag. Mine came on that same funeral as it rushed down South Superhighway. Theresa was 12. I was in the mid-current of my life—which goes to show that a "nation moment," like a descent of the Holy Spirit or a "conversion experience," can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere.

Leo Drameza, Ervan Rimbis and Rom Gonlaan, in each succession on May 27, 28, 29, triggered the latest "nation moment" when they literally lifted the Filipinos to the top of the world in an electric and exultant event that converged us to one time. Rom and Leo, in the Philippine Arena and down Provence Boat Camp, Camp 2, Camp 3, Camp 4, blew us around about the buffering winds, the waves, the rain on, their oxygen supply and when their masks it, we sensed the moment and cried, "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!" What's more, we knew that we were not alone. We had a device. "I had like I've been on the summit."

What stirring words Drameza uttered as he planted the Filipino flag. "The Philippine night has landed." How respectful of nature was Rimbis when he was grounded that "the mountain mentality, you must recognize it," and that how climactic they were Gonlaan when he exulted, "We've won summit mode!"

I have almost no feelings for sports, but these I was moments are disturbing emotionally. Boxing is no more about its bath, but those I was watching Pacquiao against rookie of Manuel Pacquiao's training moments—surely a "Pacquiao moment." And some months back, there were those Big-waving Lee Tamboon commercials with the drive-the line, "Bora Pinoy—proche!"

"Claire," said a young woman about our country as we shared the funeral that spans from every such towering pride, and we had a catch in the throat and a confluence of our hearts.

But it pertains the other dimension of my leaders, including the President, no incapable of rising to moral pride, incapable of igniting even a spark of a "nation moment"? Those are who can say with Gurlaan, "It's inspiring to inspire." Instead, or interspiring are most of them that they must rule on the basis of those who inspire. They are motivated through fear public intelligence, the ground a crushing.

The message of our "mighty leaders chosen," as Rev. Rafael Lerdon described them—the messages of many parties and continued waiting for one Bonoy and Mame—are the effects of belief, despair, cynicism and resignation. And that's the evidence they "did Out for the Filipino, and to show and deliver the message that we can do it if we unite. We can do the impossible if we unite and help each other."

But we can't depend only on "our own moment" even if some day deep Mme Rihn, we have known how last madness overcame us. The moment must be sustained. We need heroes of the enduring kind, with direct bearing on nation-building. Let me explain—because we pushed the "Mga Bagong Bayani" of Anvil Publishing.

But you'll need heroes badly for at least five reasons. First, they have no role models, with movie stars and starlets and TV personalities ranking high as most influential and popular actors. Second, they have no heroes, the image of our governing class is tainted, with their elders and even contemporaries in public service, the most visible class of people, rank and stink with mediocrities. They must be chosen but even as the abundant harvest of golfers and comedians, actors and actresses—heroes are not.

Third, our youth need heroes closer to their time who carry the torch from Rizal to their era. Heroes that need now figure in their studies and early life and gain visibility in books, plays and in media. Fourth, all of us need heroes to remind us of our history and culture, to remind us that we're alive that enables in this our so-called damaged culture, to counter battered-to-death values in public service, to inspire others to live inspires.

Finally, we all need heroes because many of our youth who want to be American, Japanese or Chinese. Heroes are the ones who will show them that the country up into boldness of excessive pressure is would-be and poorer need a sense of nationhood and national pride.

Political heroes, no country can become a nation.

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"On your excuse, (Philippines)," is the campaign slogan of Rock Ed Philippines. Here, there's a young group that inspires.

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jcsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

WAR ON COMMUNIST REBELS

Endgame or queen's gambit?

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH what her four predecessors failed to achieve: Crush the communist insurgency.

She wants the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, defeated in one to two years in Northern, Central and Southern Luzon.

The defense department has a longer timetable. It expects the 37-year-old communist insurgency "resolved within six to 10 years."

Military victory illusory

By Miriam Coronel Ferrer

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE current government, police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) can succeed where the previous ones in the last 20 years failed. Quash the communist insurgency and decisively erode its foothold in our society.

The failure of all existing arms in government's current strategy. Any more arms, being in their ranks, view and sound, labor-allowed communities, invade areas, have a number of command in many ways and cities up the arms with even words and development democracies.

More to did all done. "Today is in the latter half of the Macros regime, so might arm by being waged against the Elite rebels. Contemporary can display the bulk of its army to fight the communists. Rhetoric, too, had the advantage of US support. Moreover, the latter's troops continued to aid the armed forces. Yet, he failed to link the insurgency in 14 years of monopoly as power.

Similar "comprehensive" approaches after Macros strike get close to clinching victory. The civilian arm never did well in defeating the government side of the equation. The AFP, however, was not shackled by its own image, and the weight of its core unit and functional organization.

The AFP has remained much like the AFP described by Victor Corpuz in his 1989 book, the "Macro War"—a top heavy police force organization whose troops lack rigorous training, counterinsurgency doctrine and a "team approach." Many, it has developed a taste for power that embodies it to committed the breach of law with impunity.

CPP's fall and rise

The Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) suffered severe setbacks from 1987 to about 1992. Many of its top leaders were captured, arrested, defectors, leadership, unpopularity, strategy debates and loss of cause, thus accompanied the abrupt shift from "Macro-fascism" to formal democracy. The revival was only partly due to the arrest of leading party cadres and the rise of vigilante groups like armed towns to ward communist-rebels. Satan Lumbot Bicol.

Since then, the CPP/NPA has gradually expanded. Guerilla count have been established in previous mountain hideouts. New fronts have opened in places like Bicol and Mindanao.

Many allied legal organizations disappeared from the CPP but those that maintained the threshold. The underlined political conflicts persisted. The peasant movements broke ready to fill the streets in mass protests or to join the elected campaigns tool. The youth to the universities, fostered by the front of the national democratic, retains a deep pool of motivated and idealistic cadres. A surge in temporary lawyers, doctors and other professionals may not entirely endorse the ideology but they have still look for the cause that was fought for in the 1970s.

Feeding insurgency

The insurgency persists despite its old dogmas and orthodox Maoist strategy. What is feeding this phenomenon?

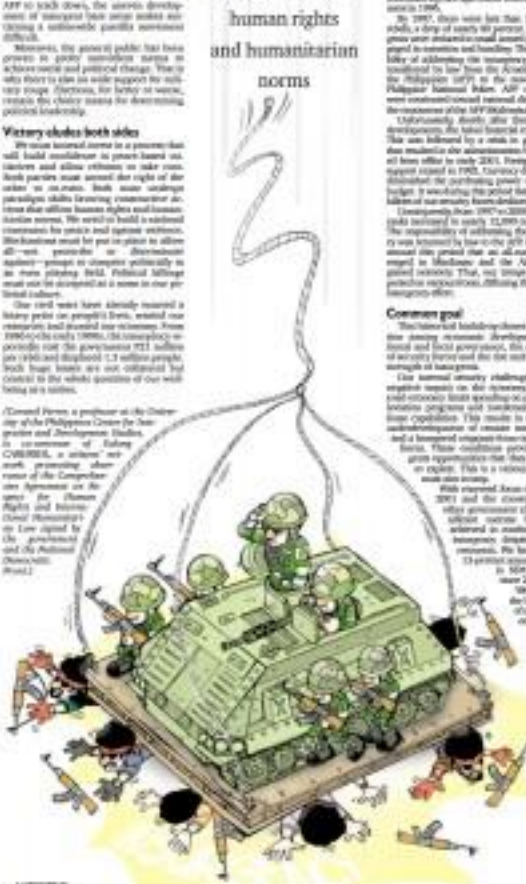
Poverty is usually made to explain why there are rebellions. It offers part of the explanation. But in the 2003 Philippine Human Development Report showed, the poorest women, children in barangays are not always the ones of interest conflict. Poor regions and human rights violations that accompany militarization and development projects appear to more directly push people to take up arms. The identified "root causes" of insurgency lie elsewhere: unknown and elusive committed by government agents, and displacement due to government-backed development projects, and people-to-the hills. Governments, in effect, has been the best recruiter for the NPA.

The CPP/NPA so far is has acted on the ground to attract widespread support. It has a platform of basic reforms that could help finance classes and provide health care.

These still are cemented by those who have the best out of the CPP/NPA's good lives, especially the death penalty. The CPP/NPA has also not been averse to partnerships with local warlords and politicians. The records of the farmers in the Bicolano peninsula reveals tremendous sweeteners show how farmers can be denied their right to the land by the entire alliance of the armed left and their armed landlords.

In other parts, the CPP/NPA has helped secure justice for those victimized by cri-

Both sides must undergo paradigm shifts favoring constructive actions that affirm human rights and humanitarian norms



Working together to achieve common goal

By Avelino J. Cruz Jr.

IT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE. IT CAN be done again. The essential lists required to defeat CPP/NPA-initiated or heightened military insurgency. As-de cuts linked to the people's hardships. From this decade upon the people. Politics, not guns, is the solution to insurgency and emergence of a nonviolent rebellion in Mindanao from less than 100 armed rebels in the late 1960s, the New People's Army (NPA) swelled to more than 25,000 combatants after the assassination of Benigno Aquino and until authoritarian rule was ousted in 1986. The returned despite a military campaign that was adequately equipped and sufficiently motivated.

The restoration of democracy helped weaken the CPP. Discussions in six weeks led to the deadline. Some factions concluded peace agreements with the government. Others which returned to the fold of the law. Some even sought public office in free elections. In Mindanao, the Moro National Liberation Front concluded a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

By 1997, there were less than 5,000 NPA rebels, a drop of nearly 80 percent. The insurgency never attained a broad armed groups recruited in communities, labor unions, church groups and student movements. The suppression of addressing the insurgency was done unaffected by law from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to the newly formed Philippine National Police. AFP capabilities were continued/created national defense with the cooperation of the AFP Modernization Act.

Unfortunately, despite this these positive developments, the latest financial crisis struck. This was followed by a crisis in governance that weakened the administration's ability to address the insurgency. The CPP/NPA's capacity was bolstered by bias to the AFP. It was also around this period that an all-out war was waged in Mindanao and the Abu Sayyaf group's kidnapping for ransom activities. The collective response to these challenges is a counter-insurgency effort.

Common goal

This historical backdrop shows a correlation among economic development, national and local governance, the capability of security forces and the size and will of the strength of insurgency.

Our national security challenges have a negative impact on the economy. A weakened economy limits the ability of the state to address the root causes of insurgency and terrorism programs and weaknesses in defense capabilities. This results in continued insurgency and terrorism. Economic development and a bolstered response from the security forces. These conditions provide more opportunities that then are quick to exploit. This is a vicious circle we must also break.

With improved focus starting in 2001 and the encouragement of the international community, significant success has been achieved in confronting the insurgency and terrorist movements. We have seen a 13-percent reduction in the number of NPA strength since 2001.

We also see the beginnings of a downward trend in the number of NPA-initiated violent incidents.

We have also seen a reduction in the number of areas affected by the insurgency and terrorism. Many municipalities and provinces have been declared free from the influence of these groups.

Our economy is growing. Investments are coming in. Tourists are coming back. Our people are more confident about the future.

All these are positive developments that will help us in our fight against insurgency and terrorism.

Defense reform program

We are now implementing the Philippine Defense Reform program. This provides the framework for comprehensive and institutional improvements in key areas. We are now re-engineering our forces to shift combat responsibilities to the AFP's Modernization Act.

Through the PDR, we are transforming our institutions while professionalizing our citizenry. With this effort, we are now raising the strength of the Philippine Marine Corps.

We are also investing in our defense capabilities. A final order of our roadmap is the implementation of the AFP Capability Upgrade Program (AFP CUP). By the first six years, we are focused on organizing our capabilities in key areas such as mobility, firepower, command, control, communications, and surveillance and reconnaissance. These will enable the AFP to conduct full operations. We have already funded the acquisition this year of sixteen combat helicopters for our soldiers in the mountains.

I am therefore confident that the armed components of the AFP-CUP fits will subsequently exist, equip and train 12 battalion battle groups of 1,000 men each supported by a total of 60 battalion level operations. We now equipment and training will give our soldiers a decisive advantage over the enemy.

Draining the pond

The AFP is not only capable of winning the war, it is also capable of winning the peace. We shall continue our efforts to address the issues explained by the insurgency.

Integrated peacetime conflict to block development and further spawn poverty. Insurgency and terrorism are also the result of failure to provide opportunities to engage into meaningful work and social interaction. The symbiotic relationship must be stopped. To do this, we must drain the pond of poverty and underdevelopment that breeds terrorism and insurgency.

We shall continue to win hearts and minds with the implementation this year of the Kalayaan Barangay program by the AFP Engineering Brigade to maximize the use of funds. We will provide electricity, potable water, access roads, schoolhouses, medical facilities and livelihood opportunities to groups into barangays each year. With this and other government programs, we will pursue develop, areas as an alternative to violence, which is all the more essential and consequent from its effect.

Taking care of troops

With the help of the private sector, we have begun establishing a financial assistance support system to help the internal war and families members of our troops. We are acquiring their protection equipment, combat libraries for all our soldiers, and other materiel. We are also acquiring other material for medical evacuation, among other material for saving equipment.

In partnership with Ground Embassy, we are building Kalayaan Barrio soldiers and their families. The First Marine Battalion Village Of Barangay Gregorio has start in Camp Aguinaldo. It will have an enrollment of 2,000 persons.

We have also awarded over 200 scholarships from Marawi to Jolo. We are also providing livelihood assistance to the dependents of personnel. It's other military reservations all over the country. We have also provided 50,000 housing units for our troops. We have also provided 50,000 housing units for our troops. We have also provided 50,000 housing units for our troops

Across the NATION

Palparan OKs watch of troop abuses

THREE farmers continue to ignore this danger sign, which has been put up in a Zaragoza village in Nueva Ecija near Mt. Bulusan. —NICLEE

By Rosette Dygay
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN AND his critic, Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, met on Friday night and agreed to "open lines" on issues involving the conduct and operations of soldiers in Bulacan's villages amid the government's heightened anti-insurgency campaign.

Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, and De la Cruz met for two hours in Baliuag following disagreements over the military's operations in that province.

"We are one in the anti-insurgency campaign. I told [Palparan] I have been supporting that ever since. But I also told him, this could not be solved by military solutions alone," De la Cruz told the Inquirer on Saturday.

She said the approach should be a combination of social and economic programs.

The governor, who is co-chair of the Central Luzon peace and order council, said she clarified her position that soldiers and officers must respect human rights at all times.

She refused this as she told Palparan of complaints involving some military officers and soldiers.

In at least nine incidents of killings in Bulacan from January to May this year, the human rights advocate Karapatan counted 14 victims who were activists, farmers and workers.

The Philippine National Police in the province tallied at least 18 victims of killings and abductions from March 2003 to May this year, none of which has been solved, regional police records to Camp Olivas showed.

In the meeting, Palparan denied that he or his soldiers were behind those violent incidents.

Col. Noel Clemente, commander of the 84th Infantry Battalion based in Bulacan, was present in the meeting.

De la Cruz said she and provincial officials wanted to keep a close watch on human rights. She said it was the mandate of local officials to protect their constituents.

In the last three weeks, Palparan had moved about 300 of his troops to the urban centers of the neighboring provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga. At least 45 detachments have been set up in Malolos City and Bulacan, Obando, Hagonoy, Pandi and Sta. Maria towns.

"I admire [De la Cruz] for her openness and desire to assist each other," Palparan said.

He said he assured the governor that the military was not after civilians but armed rebels and activists involved in illegal activities such as extortion, recruitment, threats and killings.

He said he asked De la Cruz to stop engaging him in a "tussel row" in the media as it did not look good that officials in the military and local government were disagreeing in public.

C. Visayas cops to give protection to traders

By Jhanna Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE POLICE IN CENTRAL Visayas assured it was prepared to give protection to businessmen and other professionals days being subjected to extortion by the New People's Army (NPA).

Police Regional Office (PRO 7) director Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio Jr. stressed it is part of their job to protect those under threat but he said they could not do anything if the victims of extortion refused to report or cooperate with the police.

Alarcio said the police already gave security to mining companies in other regions, which were threatened by the rebels.

In Central Visayas especially in Cebu, however, they have yet to receive any complaints from businessmen about the extortion activities of the rebels, Alarcio said.

It did not mean, however, that no extortion activities had been going on in the region. Alarcio said he would only presume that those businessmen did not report for fear something bad would happen to their businesses.

Jun Sy, regional vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), dismissed the possibility that businessmen in Cebu were paying revolutionary taxes to the rebels.

Sy said PCCI had not received reports about that from their members.

"I would like to believe that there's no businessmen paying taxes in the NPA. We are very peaceful here and insurgency is not a major problem in Cebu," he said.

Sy stressed it is also the policy of the chamber not to pay revolutionary taxes to the NPA.

Bulusan danger zone now a 'no-man's land'

JUBAN, SORSOGON—THE Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) has declared to "no-man's land" the 6-km danger zone around Bulusan Volcano as part of its efforts to ensure the safety of its residents.

PDC Raul Lee said after the session-filled PDCC meeting yesterday that no one would be allowed now to venture into the danger zone even as the volcano has remained silent the past few days.

He said he would also request the provincial board to pass an ordinance banning the entry of the public into the area, except those authorized by the disaster council.

Some residents of Barangay Inlagadlan in Casiguran town refused to leave their homes, saying it was still safe and that they would not just abandon their properties and their means of livelihood.

Director Arnel Cagali of the Office of Civil Defense recommended to the governor to cap the police and the military in ensuring compliance to the entry ban.

Preparedness

Cagali, who was present at the meeting which was manned by engineers, said the local disaster councils had amply addressed all the aspects of disaster preparedness, saying things were still within the capability of both the MDCC and the PDCC.

Lee called the closed-door PDCC meeting to settle disagreements between the two mayors of Bulusan and Irosin, on one hand, and the mayor of Casiguran, on the other.

The Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council has started finalizing plans for the relocation of residents of barangays Patrocinio Sapao and Balog as part of the precautionary measures.

Both Pangpang said they were heeding the advice of the PDCC and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to temporarily evacuate the residents to ensure their safety as danger remained high.

The Juban mayor said Pantog-Sipac has 326 households composed of 583 individuals while Balog has 489 residents comprising 96 households.

The MDCC is now identifying possible centers for the relocation and letting down the necessities as the area dies.

An executive of Phivolcs said the agency has to modify the ban and map of Mt. Bulusan. Ernesto Corpuz, chief science research specialist of Phivolcs, said on Friday that their geoprofiling system validation using the baseline map from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) is intended to modify the existing hazard map which, he said, has to be updated every eruption.

On Thursday, Eduardo Laguna Jr. (Sen. Lagunabis in earlier reports), coordinator for Bicol volcano monitoring, said in a phone interview that the Phivolcs was still validating information and location to come up with a specific hazard map of Mt. Bulusan.

Corpuz clarified that the geologists based in the Philvolcs office in Manila are the ones generating the hazard map after the data from the ground have been fed to them.

He said the Phivolcs modifies the map after each eruption based on the new materials deposited at the volcano's slopes.

He said the validation using the GPS is also intended to resolve issues concerning encroachment of danger zone areas in a situation that some areas are outside the danger zone but are endangered by lahar flow.

He said the village of Cogon in Irosin is outside the danger zone but because of the gully that can accumulate the village they have to access it again.

Debris

The deposited debris on the slopes were still to be compacted, Corpuz said.

He said no significant number of volcanic tremors were recorded as of June 12. But the intermittent heavy rains that poured since June 10 have have shaken the danger of an ash mud flow to the communities along the gullies.

Benjamin Gabales, Irosin municipal engineer, said the families in Cogon, one kilometer from the national road, were evacuated in the afternoon of June 10 after heavy rains when mud streams flow started to rumble down near the inhabited areas.

Gabales said 462 individuals, mostly women and children, were housed in the Gulfstone High School they became of the imminent danger. Reddey G. Gubalan, Juan Escandor Jr. and Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police eye grudge, business rivalry in Subic shooting

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—POLICE ARE LOOKING at personal grudge and business rivalry in solving the gunfire ambush that killed the village chief of a food processor and his aide here on Friday night.

Insp. Lolito Tejada, police station 8 commander in nearby Olongapo City, said businessman Ulderico Baling, 45, who was involved in the importation of used vehicles, was shot dead by one of five suspects at around 7 p.m. at his workplace in Kalalake, Subic.

Baling's aide, Rommel Pineda, was also killed when he exchanged gunfire with the suspects who fled aboard a black car. Another security officer working for Baling, identified as Dion Garcia, was wounded in the attack.

Jose Calleiles, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority senior deputy administrator for operations, said Baling was just now talking to some people at about 6 p.m. in a restaurant in Olongapo City.

Quoting 308SM police investigators, Calleiles said Baling went to his office at the Subic Base Corp. along Rizal Highway here at about 6 p.m. after an apparent connection with some of his clients.

At around 7 p.m., five armed men approached Baling and one of them shot him at close range.

"The one in the first row that a businessman was killed inside the freeport zone," Calleiles said.

SPO4 Primo de Guzman, technician of the Olongapo City crime laboratory, said they recovered 17 empty shells of M-16 rifle from the crime scene.

ROUNDUP

Grenade fails

DAMIANA CITY—An unidentified man lobbed a grenade into a bar in Barangay Kinalabtan in Jota, Iloilo on Wednesday morning but it failed to explode. Chief Insp. Ritchie Palabrica, information officer of the military's Southern Command Headquarters, said the suspect was apparently targeting Lt. Jeremias Edan in Alcazar. On Tuesday, a grenade was also found at the yard of a house in Barangay San Raymundo in Jota. Palabrica said authorities could not yet determine if the incidents were related as investigators were still gathering the facts. —Jaime Salinas

Boats collide

BOGO CITY—Two fishing boats collided off the coast of Don Bernardino, Tabuc del Sur on June 11, capsizing resulting the an unidentified boat driver who owned the boat was riding on outfitted with MV Prince Philo, a larger fishing boat registered to Bonas Gerdino of Dalias in Tuburan, Cebu. Cebu City. The boat owner's body has not yet been located, according to the report. The accident off San Mercedino are considered one of the treacherous areas in the Davao Gulf. —Edda Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Floods destroy tiles

BICOL CITY—Japanese tile-maker Nakayama Technology Corp. has reported flood about P20.2 million due to the floods that hit the city last week. Edgardo Cruz, Nakayama vice president, said the flood damaged export quality tiles made by shipment that were ready for shipment and computers. The raging waters, he said, also damaged the company's preventive house. Disaster officials said the flood also destroyed at least seven houses in at least four villages here but no casualties were reported. Nakayama is the biggest investment in the city, employs at least 1,000 workers. It exports construction tiles to Japan and other parts of Asia. —Alex Agustin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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OIC bypasses RP bid anew for observer status

COTABATO CITY—THE ORGANIZATION OF the Islamic Conference (OIC) has skipped again the Philippines' bid for an observer status, Moro rebel officials attending the summit held in Baku, Azerbaijan said Saturday.

Instead, the OIC urged Mindanao's resistant Moro National Liberation (MNLF) chief Nur Misuari, who was dumped with rebellion.

Misuari Kusain, MNLF vice chairman, said the application of the Philippine government was never in the agenda of the summit that started on June 19. The Baku summit ended on June 21.

The Philippine government submitted its bid in 2002 but has since that time, the OIC has not tabled it for discussion.

"It was never discussed in Bahrain," Misuari, who arrived here recently told the Inquirer.

During the Baku summit, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo represented the government according to Misuari.

The Bahrain visit last failed to get assurance from Romulo or from Secretary Jesus Dureza, the national peace adviser.

The government has been convincing the OIC that its effort to solve the Moro rebellion in Mindanao could be hastened if they grant an observer.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the conciliation of the government's bid to the OIC agenda could be an indication the influential 57-member Pan-Islamic body was not keen on supporting the MILF.

The MILF has been overseen the summit in part of the MNLF delegation.

The MILF, which enjoys the backing of Indonesia, Libya and Saudi Arabia among other Muslim nations, continues to build the clamor to vote despite signing a peace deal in 1996.

The late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople had said the MILF's continued representation of Muslims in the Philippines proved to be the most serious stumbling block to the government's bid for an observer status at the OIC.

Hussin said aside from asking the government to release Misuari, the OIC also removed its commitment to the 1996 peace treaty.

He said the OIC also passed a resolution calling for the reunification of the MNLF and the MILF.

The MILF came into being after Hashim Salamat bolted out of the MNLF in the late 1980s because of what he perceived as the softening of Misuari's stance on the demand for a separate Moro entity.

Salamat's MILF became the main rebel force in Mindanao after the MNLF and the Ramos government signed the peace deal in 1996.

Later, the MILF signed its negotiated peace.

Another Mindoro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AS THE BEST football and the World Cup goes underway in Germany, the boys is quite happy to get like water and kick ballpark from a junk shop in Baguio City.

Wage board execs say Bohol traders willing to give ₱30-₱50 wage hike

By Jhonvee Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—MOST BUSINESSMEN IN BOHOL are willing to give between P30 to P50 wage increase to their workers, according to wage board officials who conducted the wage increase consultations in Tagbilaran City last Thursday.

Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) and Department of Labor Cebu City Director Elsie Cincheng initiated the open consultations with the businessmen.

"The businessmen in Bohol are very generous on giving wage increase to their workers," Cincheng said yesterday.

RTWPB labor representatives Hermie Sucaldito of the Trade Union of the Philippines and Allied Services (Tupas) said the businessmen in Bohol offered a much better increase compared to those in Dumaguete City.

The wage board had conducted wage consultations in Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental on June 12 wherein the officials of the Employers' City Chamber of Commerce and Industry agreed only to give hike of up to P14.

Sucaldito said the businessmen in Bohol agreed to a P30 to P50 increase because they are afraid that Congress would eventually pass the P125-across-the-board wage increase.

"Besides, Bohol has a booming economy. Many tourists are coming to Bohol based on my observation at the port of Tagbilaran," Sucaldito said.

Ventura also agreed that the rising economy of Bohol had reflected on the positive response of the businessmen in Bohol on the wage issue.

But he explained that he could not say, Hanini the businessmen in Negros Oriental if they would only offer P14 in daily wage increase since the province remained highly dependent on agriculture.

During the consultation in Tagbilaran, the organizations of the province's Catholic schools were also open to the ideal of a P30-P50 wage increase.

The Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bohol Chamber Chamber of Commerce and the group of businessmen were prepared to give a wage increase from P30 to P50.

The labor groups who attended in Tagbilaran public hearing, however, still insisted on the proposed wage increases they had filed before the RTWPB.

The Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) had demanded a P71 across-the-board daily wage increase, while the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) was asking for a P91 daily wage hike. Both groups also support the proposed P125 daily legislated wage increase.

Fishers want destructive fishing stopped

STO. TOMAS, La. UNION—SOME 200 fishermen in 13 coastal villages here have asked the local government to stop the operations of commercial fishing vessels and obnoxious fishing inside the town's 15-km fishing zone.

They also asked the town council to provide incentives to volunteers of Bantay Dagat (sea patrol) and the local fisheries law enforcement team so they could perform their functions more effectively.

Ana Lovano, president of the Tres gremlong Mamma ng mga Mangingisda ng Pilipinas chapter here, said the fishermen's resolution were contained in a letter to members that the group sent to the office of Mayor Severino Lachostell.

Lovano said the operations of the commercial fishing vessels using trawl and ball-ball methods and those into fishing have reduced the fishermen's catch by as much as 70 percent.

Trawl fishing, which uses fine mesh nets, and ball-ball fishing, which uses ball-shape nets weighted that pound the bottom of the waters, are considered destructive and are banned by law in Sto. Tomas local waters.

Lovano, quoting their members, said provided from the Philippine Rational Children's Maritime Commission and the Philippine Coast Guard have been posted in the area but their presence could not stop the trawl and ball-ball fishing vessels.

"Every time we approach them [members of the PNP's maritime command and PCG] to catch the destructive fishers and the banned fishing vessels, they always say they have no operational funds," Lovano said.

The fishermen's letter had failed to reach the command the chiefs of the police's maritime command and the PCG based in Barangay village.

Cathwell said he was aware of the problems of the fishermen but could not do anything because the local government did not have funds to monitor the municipal waters.

"Our allocation for gasoline is limited so our boats could not move regularly to patrol our municipal waters," he said.

Cathwell said most of the destructive fishers operating in his town came from the neighboring towns of Agoo and Aringay.

He said that those fishermen have strong backers because of their audacity in venturing into our municipal waters," he said.

He said most of the trawl and ball-ball fishing vessels were owned by capitalists of Dagupan City. "The main operators of these commercial vessels have powerful political connection," he said.

He added was preparing plans for a multisectoral meeting to discuss the problems of the said. Representatives of the police's maritime command, PCG, the regional office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and local fishermen.

Romeo Guerrero, acting director of the BFAR in the Ilocos region said the two Tomas fishermen should file a complaint with his office so that an encroachment of the trawl and ball-ball's commercial fishing vessels. Peter Ao, Jaldon stalk is report from Trawl Mouse, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE FIFTH FILIPINO ON EVEREST

On Saturday, May 25th, 2006, climber Leo Winkler stood at the peak of Mount Everest at 30,754 feet. Reaching into his pack, he produced a stainless steel flask and poured himself a reassuring cup of tea.

Charantia Ampalaya Tea. Proudly Filipino.

A writer, a teacher and an outdoor sportsman, Leo Winkler is also a Type-1 Diabetic.

***

Leo has climbed four of the highest mountains in the world from Europe to Antarctica. Together with his training and meditation, he relies on Charantia to help keep his blood sugar levels stable during his climbs.

Leo's descent has low high altitude and the extreme conditions would cause his blood sugar to dangerous levels. "Once I measured more than 600 mg/dL. This is dangerous." To counter this, Leo regularly takes a flask of Charantia along on his mountain climbs. "I drink it to help manage high blood sugar at high altitudes."

A role model and spokesperson for diabetic youth in Europe, Leo's ultimate dream is to climb Mount Everest Vertically - the highest mountain on each of the world's seven continents. And Charantia will be there to help him reach his goal.

"I take it with me everywhere I go," smiles Leo.

Charantia Ampalaya Supplements are now exported around the world. From Asia to the Middle East, Europe and to see the USA, more and more diabetics and doctors are coming to trust this natural herbal product that is proudly Philippine made. Today, Charantia is sold under many different names in many different countries, but the exact ingredients in our tea and capsules that diabetics have come to rely on remains the same.

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For more information on Charantia and Leo's climb on Everest, visit our website at www.charantia.com

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DPWH in Iloilo accused of ₱6.6-M irregularity

By Gemma Bolgar IV
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A RANKING OFFICIAL OF the here has accused the Department of Public Works and Highways of the presence of alleged irregularity in the purchase of heavy equipment worth P6.6 million.

Provincial Administrator Manuel Mejorada claimed that the equipment were encumbered and that the DPWH's fourth regional district allegedly conspired with a board director identified with Oton 2nd district Rep. Augusto "Bobby" Syjuco in buying the equipment.

Cecilio Colligan, head of the DPWH-Iloilo's 4th engineering district, denied any irregularities.

He said all his actions were based on the recommendations of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) and the heavy equipment inspector of DPWH's regional equipment engineer.

Colligan said he could not connive with Syjuco and influence the bidding process because he was not even a member of the BAC.

He said the bidding was open to the public and only one person from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) attended it, as said it was the BAC that presided and selected the winning bidder.

Colligan said his only role during the bidding process was to record the entire proceedings. Before the equipment delivered by the winning bidder, Colligan said the engineering district, he said the Regional Equipment Office subjected them to a "rigid test operation."

"There is, therefore, no basis to say that the 4th Engineering District was bound to accept an 'encumbered' the heavy equipment ..." Colligan insisted. The complaint has been submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said the equipment were "duly examined and found to be in order."

Colligan's counterpart Bakeri was in complement with the order of Ombudsman Director Eduardo Escueta dated May 11, 2006 directing him, Syjuco and Aurelio Tilova, president and owner of the winning bidder Aeon Builders Corp., to answer the allegations raised by Mejorada.

Mejorada said Colligan immediately paid the the equipment bonded only on the affidavit of representing presented by Tilova.

"Where can you find a person who sells heavy equipment promising only an affidavit of surrender/quit to prove he is the real owner of the heavy equipment?" asked Mejorada.

Mejorada said Tilova failed to present the Certificate of Registration or official receipt from the Land Transportation Office in the case of dump trucks, and no deeds of sale from previous owners in the cases of the road graders, payloaders and other equipment.

Mejorada said Colligan caused the payment of the questionable and encumbered "flat" equipment not to be registered in the names of other individuals.

Citing Colligan's report dated July 20, 2006 to engineer Gary Villanueva, the officer in charge regional equipment engineer, Mejorada said Roberto Pandoy, automotive equipment inspector, made a comment that the dump trucks with plate numbers WPH 306 "needs further reconditioning."

In short, Mejorada said, the dump truck failed to meet the standards of the automotive equipment inspectors.

"The proper procedure would have been to require the supplier to undertake further reconditioning of the dump truck and then request the automotive equipment inspector to conduct another inspection and test operation," Mejorada said.

In a letter-complaint dated Dec. 16, 2005, Mejorada said Aida Santiago, the CEO chief in Angeles City, Pampanga, reported that the dump truck with plate numbers WPH 306 was registered in the name of a Cecilio Hernandez of 46 St. Cruz, Lubao, Pampanga.

Mejorada said Santiago of the Angeles City attached the copies of the previous owner which was Three Ley Jhen in Rancocgan Foundation Inc., the chairman of talents in Talavera," said Mejorada.

In another certification dated June 8, 2005, Mejorada revealed that Board of Directors of LTO Iloilo subscribed him that the dump truck with plate numbers WPH-298 was registered in the name Fundation.

Mejorada said he could not reconcile the above transaction because the official records of the dump truck with plate number WPH-298 registered in the name of other individuals and entities.

He further said that the Deed of Absolute Sale was defective in the sense that the chassis and engine numbers of the machineries and equipment sold to the DPWH were not included in the document.

"The damage to the government was not to the bidding, but in the delivery of the equipment and subsequent payment," said Mejorada.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nina A. Alvarado

Centuries-old tradition renders swift justice

By Inje G. Silvestre
Correspondent

AN AGE-OLD TRADITION OF mediation has kept family feuds from escalating into full-blown clan or community wars in Sultan Kudarat, one of the progressive towns of Maguindanao.

"We settle disputes even before complaints are filed in court," said the mayor, Datu Tocao Mastura. He was referring to the centuries-old system that his municipality has adopted and legalized when he issued Executive Order No. 03 in 2006.

The order created the Walay Sa Bitara, a council composed of respected elders and experts of Islamic law and traditions.

Mastura explained that this mode of conflict resolution was based on the Islamic tradition of consensus building and consultation. The term "Bitara," which means "exchange," describes what takes place when both parties engage in a fair exchange of arguments and facts.

"It is not an adversarial structure, unlike in the usual court where technicalities can hinder one from saying something," Mastura said.

Swearing by the Koran

"Here, you can speak your mind and the council will listen to everything you say here; there are no lawyers trying to outsmart one another."

The council calls on "credible" witnesses who must swear by the Koran "to tell the truth and nothing but the truth," the mayor added.

Mastura said the system of dispensing justice was based on the Pamulak, a code of conduct for Muslims authored by Sultan Muslim Mabi in the 17th century.

"The Pamulak is, of course, detailed," he said. He cited examples of specific incidents that required specific punishments, such as the cutting of one or more fingers, depending on the seriousness of the offense and its impact on the community or the aggrieved person or family.

MAYOR Mastura issued executive order to settle local conflicts through traditional Islamic justice system.

MAYOR Datu Tocao Mastura presides in a session to settle local conflicts in the presence of military and other stakeholders.

Almost always, the settlement ... ends the conflict and there is no longer a need to bring the matter to the civil court, so we are in a way preventing the clogging of cases,' Mastura stressed

The executive order, however, cautions both customs and traditional practices in resolving disputes, as compiled by the traditional leaders and elders, and provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1508, which defines the responsibilities and scope of the Katarungang Pambarangay or the barangay justice system.

How the system works

Under the executive order, conflicts are first settled in the barangay-based Walay Sa Bitara. If both parties cannot agree on a settlement, the case is elevated to the municipal Walay Sa Bitara, Mastura said.

"In distinguish the process from the old practice, the mayor said: "We no longer have a jury. The members of the council discuss the pros and cons, and I pronounce the details of the settlement as agreed upon by the parties involved."

"Almost always, the settlement ... ends the conflict and there is no longer a need to bring the matter to the civil court, so we are in a way preventing the clogging of cases," Mastura stressed.

But "when the defendant is a little bit hard to deal with and uncooperative," he said, "we suggest to the complainants to file a case in court."

"We work hard to ensure that the matter is settled before a first hearing ever takes place. The suspect or defendant then behaves and agrees to settle amicably," he said.

Mutual agreement

"Standard fines are imposed," Mastura said.

He cited the case of a person who was shot and eventually became paralyzed. The accused, it was agreed, should pay for the hospital bills of the victim and give P120,000 to the victim and family. When both parties agreed, the case was declared closed.

If Mastura is able to perform successfully the part of the "judge," he alludes in his language that can be traced all the way to Batu Sultan, Sultan Kudarat, "the father of my grandfather, or the grandfather of my father."

Like other units of the same descent, Mastura is a recognized datu who must be accorded respect and honor.

Mastura was mayor of Sultan Kudarat from 1977 to 1998. His daughter, Bai Shajida Mastura Sandilla, took over after his term expired in 2001, he was elected mayor again.

Mastura was not served as a subordinate officer of the late Moro Islamic Liberation Front chief Salamat Hashim before the rebel group split from the Moro National Liberation Front. When Mastura serves, especially in the early 1970s, he became municipal secretary.

Traditional yet progressive

In the seat of the sultanate of Sultan Kudarat, Mastura is mayor, datu and judge. If he can be considered a leader in its traditional sense, he also keeps a progressive outlook. Sultan Kudarat, who belongs to a province of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is one of the local government partners of the Local Governance Support Program in the ARMM (LGSPA), a "capacity-building" program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The LGSPA seeks to promote peace and development in the ARMM through excellence in local governance. It has conducted trainings and seminars where Mastura has spoken about his innovative approaches in governance, including his peace-building and maintenance efforts through the Walay Sa Bitara.

The partnership between the LGSPA and Sultan Kudarat is not exactly new. In the second phase of the program, the municipality was among the LGUs in the region asked to attend capacity-building programs.

It was able to start its information and communication technology (ICT) program, according to the comprehensiveness of its financial management services.

'Corporate' governance

Upon the invitation of the LGSPA, Mastura and his ICT team have gone around the ARMM to help other municipalities replicate their success.

A certified public accountant, Mastura said he was running the affairs of Sultan Kudarat as though it were "a corporate company."

With his daughter, Bai Shajida, giving him all-out support as vice mayor and chair of the Sanggunang Bayan, Mastura has involved more women in community building, primarily by providing them livelihood training and start-up initiatives.

No wonder that when LGSPA chose the recipients of the Kaagapay Seal of Excellence in Local Governance, identifying LGU partners that exemplified excellence in the areas of local government leadership and management, service delivery, resource generation and participatory governance, Sultan Kudarat was on its list. Its ICT and Gender and Development programs were praised by the judges.

THE AUTHOR is a Manila-based freelance writer. E-mail:

Camiguin is home to expat dressmaker

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Camiguin Island

CAMIGUIN'S MANY RUSTIC charms have added a new name: Avilla Sobio Batiky and her Treehouse by the Sea.

Friendly and full of life, Avilla or Gigi, hails from Valencia, Bukidnon, and has worked her way around the world—from Manila, Hong Kong and London, to the United States and Cayman Islands in the Caribbean.

But home is, finally, Camiguin.

"I love this island. This is the best place to live in, to settle down and have a peaceful life," says the 57-year-old who could easily be the island's ambassador and most gracious hostess.

Her bedroom-cum-hostel could be the best home stay in this island getaway of northern Mindanao.

Gigi is the eldest of seven (four a dozen siblings orphaned from their father. She worked as a nurse-vendor in her hometown Valencia and moved to Manila as a dressmaker, then to Hong Kong as a domestic helper.

"I have to fend for my siblings and my own children as my first husband died early as well," she said.

But it was her dressmaking skills that propelled her life for the better.

Master dressmaker

"I wanted to work double-time in Hong Kong so I applied as Barbie Doll and they hired me." She found herself becoming the master dressmaker no less—the one who cuts and makes the original dresses for other dressmakers in the company to follow.

Her employer was so interested in her talent that she was asked to move to the US and take more challenges.

"With a large family to support back home, I didn't want to slow down and accept all kind of jobs," she says.

She was also involved in hotel management but not in kitchen work. "I would rather save than cook them, but both values I am now—personally cooking for my guests."

Her food is the perfect homemade dish one wished in a holiday away from home.

How did she end up in Camiguin when she didn't even have any idea of it, even when she first hired her back in Manila?

"I came back to Mindanao in 2000 with my future husband Louis. We were looking for a quiet place to stay in the airport in Cagayan de Oro City. I asked people and they recommended Camiguin," Gigi said.

They were glad they came.

BATIKY'S Treehouse by the sea

Sea and sunset

"People asked me why I stayed. To answer them, I point to the sea," she said.

The marvelous sunset from her garden holds the answer.

Gigi could not be wrong in finding her corner of the sky. Nestled on the edge, between two ancient volcanoes—Hibok-Hibok and Timpoong—and the fabled Sunken Cemetery Stairs, of Hinubgan, of winding road and lone yards full of flowers, the place is nature-blessed.

The Budoy couple built their dream home without reservation; they know they have found their niche. They also wanted to share it to other people and earn an income in between.

Though they did not bother with promotion, guests come through word of mouth or by accident. "Some guests stumble by knock and check out, stay until the next day," she said.

Gigi is a rare example of a humble local girl with a global touch. "I'm a hands-on worker. I don't mind tending the garden myself, cooking and fixing the rooms. I like to busy myself."

But she also knows how to have a relaxing good time like taking to the sea every morning or flying to London to visit her grandchildren.

Back to Camiguin she will be, to the cool sea breeze and the magnificent sunset.

She is home.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NEWS

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006

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EZ2 SUERTRES
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SIX DIGIT (All 6-digit winners)
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'One in body, spirit for the oppressed'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas, Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeffrey Malvar, Agaton Z. Zonio and Michael Sarcauga
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—"TO BE ONE IN BODY AND SPIRIT FOR the struggle of the oppressed people; and to live one day at a time... witnessed by the spirits of this place."

Broadcast journalists George Vigo and Marivel (she knows as Shiel) drew inside this vow in 1991 which they wrote on a small piece of paper and buried in the cold earth around Mt. Apo's Lake Agco.

True to their vow, the two remained united even in death after motorcycle-riding gunmen shot and killed the couple in an ambush here last Monday.

Police authorities in Central Mindanao have identified one of the suspects in Monday's ambushslay of the two broadcast journalists.

Chief Supt. Gennaro Doria, Central Mindanao police chief, said they were able to identify Dinalalo Mamanggit, an alleged commander hitman, as one of the two gunmen that assisted the couple based on an artist's sketch.

The North Cotabato government and the city government of Kidapawan have offered a P150,000 reward for the arrest of the suspects.

According to Doria, Mamanggit is a member of the New People's Army's sparrow unit under Front Committee 33 and is on the wanted list.

He said that Mamanggit was also the suspect in the killing of a army coastwatcher in Maguid and an engineer in Makilala, both in North Cotabato, early this year.

Doria said that based on their investigation, they found out that George was also a former rebel, who was under Commander Bendix.

Asked why the communists would target the Vigos, Doria said the NPA had suspected that George was instrumental in the raid that killed Commander Bendix last year.

"They believed it was George Vigo who informed the military about the whereabouts of Commander Bendix. So it appears now that the motive was retaliation and the killing was not media-related," he said.

But the NPA has denied any involvement in the killing.

Ricardo Nemenzo, spokesperson of the Magpanggol Sugar Command of the NPA in Southern Mindanao, said the Vigo couple were known for their involvement "in the progressive legal democratic mass movement in North Cotabato" and it was unlikely for the NPA to target them.

He also said they had no enemies by the name of Mamanggit.

"They have contributed to the struggle for human rights, environment protection, agrarian reform, and the rights and welfare of media, women and children and national minorities," Nemenzo said.

The Vigos hosted two popular weekly radio programs—"Voice of the South" and "Mikate ta Gangenta"....over the Catholic-run DXSO radio here.

George, 33, was a consultant to the Union of Catholic Asian News Agency and was project officer of Community and Family Services International, an NGO based in Cotabato City.

Marivel, 39, belonged to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, a militant group whose members have also come under attack. She was a member of the League of Filipino Students and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines during her student days.

In the early 1990s, the couple joined the progressive movement. But when they got married in 1995 they decided to be less and instead get involved in development work.

GEORGE Vigo and Marivel/Shiel Mamanggit relaxing in Barangay Lubilan, Antipas, North Cotabato, shortly before they were killed by suspected New People's Army gunmen. The couple had been known for their involvement in the progressive legal democratic mass movement in North Cotabato province. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Until her death, Shiel was the development training officer for agrarian reform communities with radio projects in Mindanao.

Prof. Hilma Consuelo of the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato, said the Vigos "would have been erroneously placed on a list of progressive individuals who are fighting the government."

"Those who know the couple said the bullets that took their lives were not enough to put an end to what they believed in.

"Hope we will not fall down. I will miss my mom's love for us. I will miss my (late) life lessons for us... both of them always wanted us to become better persons not only for ourselves but for others," said 14-year old Dennah Rey, the couple's eldest son, a freshman at the Philippine Science High School in Davao City.

In Midsayap, Cotabato, Del Sur, the remains of slain militant leader Nes Himata, who was also shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen on June 17 while on his way to Cotabato City were laid to rest on Thursday afternoon. With a report from Joselli Sudella, PDI Mindanao Bureau

TOGETHER even in death, George and Marivel/nearby Lake Agco where they married in 1995. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Aplus METRO
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Editor Evan G. Olpoindo
Tell us your feedback

Reposo: From dirt road to art and resto row

Makati's once forgotten street wants to be city's art center

SEVERAL of the art works (right, bottom) on the mural (2nd brightness up Reposo Street (see related story on next page)

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF ONE WERE TO GO ON A TRIP DOWN memory lane, there would be some of the scenes likely to be seen on Makati's Reposo Street of old:

Carriages drawn by horses, their hooves pounding a staccato beat on the street lined by fire trees and tamarind leaves.

Behind these houses, vacationing rich Filipinos and Spanish families would relax to be seen having picnics on the prairie as they listened to music coming from a merienda or watched the performers in a carrozela.

The whole stretch of Reposo—which has since been renamed Silvestre Garcia, after the first mayor of Makati—was then a relaxation haven for the illustrados who lived in hermosuras, Moralla, during the Spanish era, according to Genaa Guillermo Gomez.

Gomez, a Spanish enthusiast and one of the oldest members of the community, wrote a paper on the area's history.

Pleasant place

Called Pleasantes (pleasant place), the old Reposo was nothing but a dirt road bestowed by fire trees that flared during the summer. The trees were purportedly imported by the De Ayala Hacienda clan from Mexico.

The Ayalas' bloodline, Gomez said, can be traced to the old Roxas family who originated from Batangas and were considered Indio Principalia (local elite).

"One tradition says it started with one Don Mariano who became a friend of the King of Spain, thereby becoming Spanish," Gomez says.

Makiling's ancestral land was vast, starting somewhere near the mouth of the Pasig River and ending in a strait connected to the Laguna de Bay.

Intermarriages

This native principalia was said to have intermarried with Spanish peninsulares such as Rojas (Roxas), Ayala and Chinoy Gramaxon bearing the name Lim de Cuerpo and Uson.

"But later generations married more Spanish peninsulares like Mellizo, Ivoriano, Olgado... dropping the latter clay Obadolias," Gomez said.

The Cabral Sioson founded the township of Sta. Ana and Makati. They expanded their

REPOSO, A20

Judge recalls warrants used in Navotas raid

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A LOWER COURT HAS ORDERED THE National Bureau of Investigation to return the boxes of chocolate drink it had confiscated from a factory in Navotas in April after the judge recalled the search warrants he issued for the raid.

Judge Alberto Lorenzo of the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Branch 256 said he had "no option but to recall the search warrants" issued against Colombian International Food Products after he found no probable cause to believe that the company's chocolate drink, "Chocopik," had infringed on Nestlé's trademark.

Last April, NBI agents raided Colombian's factory on Bonifacio Street, Jose Rodrel Village in Navotas. Thousands of boxes of its chocolate drink were seized during the operation.

'Confusingly similar'

The NBI conducted the operation after Levina issued search warrants based on a complaint Nestlé Philippines had filed against Colombia. Nestlé had alleged that the packaging of Colombia's milk drink was "confusingly similar" to that of Milo.

Lorenzo, however, said that after examining and comparing both products, he was convinced that Chocpik could not be mistaken for the Nestlé product.

"Clearly, the only perceptible similarity between the two products is the presence of more or less similar shades of colors in their respective packages," the judge added.

All evidence obtained by the applicant (Nestlé) under [illegible] search warrants are hereby ordered suppressed for all purposes. The NBI is hereby ordered to immediately return to (Colombia) ... all the articles and properties seized from the company ...," Lorenzo ordered.

Wet day in San Juan; Manila marks 435th year

By Tina G. Santos

"TIKTOO OLD SOCIETIES," JAMO LOLITO Guerrero, 61, a resident of San Juan which celebrated the feast of St. John the Baptist yesterday.

"They should've been spared us," she added. Guerrero said she was on her way to the market when she met several young men who poured water on her.

Another "victim," nursing student Leah Marinette, 18, buried instructions to the boys who threw plastic bags filled with urine mixed in the nearby water at her, splattering her white uniform.

"I begged them to spare me because I was in a hurry to go to school. Now I have to go back home to change my uniform," she told the reporter.

Others, however, took the annual ritual of being doused with water in stride.

From 7 a.m. to 12 noon, residents of the town stepped on the streets and used water pistols, water-filled plastic bags and drippers to douse water on each other.

Sen. Rodolfo Ejercito, San Juan police chief, said yesterday's celebration was generally peaceful.

"There were only minor incidents, mainly caused by rainstorm[illegible], which in the end, were all settled. Most complainants were not aware that this was part of the celebration and, for them, that's we done all in the spirit of fun," Ejercito told the business.

Ejercito said the town's entire police force was mobilized and deployed in major thoroughfares to ensure that no dangerous items broke out during the celebration.

The police chief added that he ordered a 10-man team to arrest residents caught throwing hard objects and dirty water at people or launching public utility vehicles.

In Manila, the celebration marking the city's 435th founding anniversary proper day kicked off with a thanksgiving Mass at the Rotonda Circle at 7 a.m.

It was followed by [illegible] ceremonies at the tomb of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros and at the Rajah Sulayman Monument in Malate.

Both lanes of Roxas Boulevard, from Quirino Avenue to Pedro Gil, were closed to traffic later in the day to give way to a concert at the Rajah Sulayman Park that was capped by a grand fireworks display.

Reposo mural adds color to thriving art colony

By Joe-ejoiner Gomez
Contributor

THE NEW MURAL ALONG MCARTHUR Bridge in Ermita's Reposo[illegible] in Makati is an apt addition to the area, which wants to be known as the city's art district.

A project of Grupo Reposo, an artists' association headed by Ed Soler based at the LRI Business Plaza on Reposo Street, the recently-unveiled mural showcases the individual expressions of 17 Filipino artists, both the established and the promising. The artists are Gig de Pio, Bernie Aligan, Egay Bernabe, Gilda Tinsawa, Tony Nuevas, Camille dela Rosa, Rudy Sacral, Joey Ibis, Michaelle Herbert, Jerry Ilagan, Pancho Flores, Elmer Trota, Mono Taveras, Epay Reyes, Aileen Lorenzo, Vincent de Pio and Bogie Ruiz.

The mural is unique in that it is not just one painting but a showcase of 17 complete compositions.

Paintings with themes of social realism dominate the whole "canvas."

Emotional outlet

Ruiz, winner of the 2003 Area 19 Biennale Award and two-time Finalist of the four awardees in Singapore, said, "I really accepted his father's invitation to paint as it gave me the opportunity to express how I felt about the emotional distress between my father and I. It was like he was inviting when, in fact, he was really there all the time."

Quite interestingly, his father worked with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. for 35 years. The mural is in front of the PLDT building on Reposo Street so this felt it was only appropriate to put his father's face on the wall.

"Missing," the title of Ruiz's painting, is also about people who are made to disappear by people who are drunk with power.

Ambivalent feelings

In "Duality of One," Fernandez used the sun to express ambivalences: the longing to give and the existence of selfish desires at the same time.

"Sunlight is beneficial while at the same time damaging," he said.

Of three individual expressions, "Three colors" by Vincent de Pio and the painting beside it, "Unbearing Mating Dare" by Aileen Lorenzo, easily catch one's attention.

The former, an impressionist painting, is done in black and white while the latter, a mix of impressionism and expressionism, is in color.

Women now and then

Some by turn of the country's most promising young artists, the paintings reflect the sharp contrast between Filipino women then and now.

"I wanted to express the traditional concept of the Filipina beauty—such morena (brown-skinned) complexion which [is] now done days of skin whitening line being born forgotten and made to appear inferior to white skin," said Lorenzo, the youngest in the group. The artist has a Fine Arts degree (cum laude), major in Visual Communication, from the University of the Philippines.

Vincent de Pio, son of portrait artist, Gig de Pio, on the other hand, said, "I wanted my work to convey that music is part of Philippine life and our women in the performing arts are on par with their foreign counterparts."

The painter, whose works were a hit in a recent exhibition in Singapore, admitted that the consciousness evoked in his impressionist works reflect values he grew up with, such as maintaining sensitivity in everything he does, as in "Three colors."

"THREE colors" by Vincent de Pio
PHOTOS BY RAMY RAMOS

"UNLEARNING Morning Class" by Aileen Lorenzo

"MISSING" by Bogie Ruiz

Did You Know?

Citizens from the "Island" streets like Isaac Lozano and Jesse Alburo in Quezon City were named after Filipino first family? Streets in Barangay Lagro, Manila, Quezon City were named after the Filipino first female who died on July 26, 1983, after the United Arab Airlines plane they were riding crashed into the Arabian Sea. The 34 Scouts were on their way to the 15th World Jamboree in Korea subsequently drowned.

(grid) Bonifacio, Filo Guevara

METROBRIEFS

LPG tanks seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has warned against the proliferation of illegally refilled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks as its agents raided five establishments in Muntinlupa, Manila and Bulacan City. Behind during the operations were P1.2 million worth of LPG tanks bearing the brand names of Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Corp., Total Philippines Inc. and Superblue. But Cecilia Jalbuena, head of operations of the NBI's Economic Intelligence and Investigation Division (EIIDI) called Jesus Jaime Yap said the tanks were considered confusingly alike that all companies complained that the stores had been refilling their LPG tanks and guaranteed with genuine products. Jalbuena said the infringement and unfair competition charges would be filed against the owners of JJYC LPG Gas Supply, United Star Trading, Hapa & Gas, Gomez Flow Dealer and Mac-J Poultry Supply. "We are going after those [counterfeiters] not only to protect the interests of the gas companies but the public as well," Yap said in an interview. He stressed that consumers should be aware of the [illegible] tanks during the refilling process, and should not be misled. Tina G. Santos

Security tightened

POLICE PATROLS around commercial establishments in Metro Manila, the Los Piñas police tightened up security in the city's 700 villages and subdivisions over the weekend. City police chief Supt. Josephus Anigan yesterday deployed Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams to strategic areas as he called on the additional mobile patrols to watch over the city 24 hours a day. Mayor Imelda Aguilar had earlier ordered the police to step up security in Las Piñas even as the city police reported a 30 percent crime reduction efficiency from January to June this year. "We cannot compromise the safety of our city residents," Aguilar had said in a statement. She also instructed the police to monitor the city's entry and exit points, particularly the "Governing Routes"—a network of alternate or secondary streets leading to the city's boundaries of subdivisions and villages —to prevent residents from taking extended to robbers and other criminals. Jocelyn R. Uy

Book launching set

THE ANNUAL [illegible] Hernandez Centennial, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Institute of Creative Writing, will launch the book "Armando" on June 27, 3 p.m., at the Claro M. Recto Hall, UP College of Arts and Letters. "Armando" is the biography of the late author Armando Hernandez, presenting not only a literary narrative but a life in contradiction and the struggle of a revolutionary. Written by multi-awarded historian Ambeth Ocampo and Rolando Hernandez, former UP president Francisco Nemenzo, Kilusang Mayo Uno leader Rey Palileo, Jose Rizalist Ramos, and playwright-director Bienvenido Noriega.

Cops nab suspect

A MAN who had promised jobs in the United Kingdom to over 30 prospective employees for money was arrested in an entrapment operation yesterday. Supt. Arnulfo Bihasano, chief of the Quezon City Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division, identified the suspect as Jeanito Favor III, a resident of Mabolo Pasig St. in this city, Manila. He must [illegible] complaint against him filed after he failed to send them abroad as factory workers. The Bienvenido said the victims had [illegible] the promised jobs would receive a salary equivalent to $2,000/month. Nancy C. Carvajal

THE TREE LINED street next to the Intramuros leaves for those who during the Spanish period.

Reposo: From dirt road ...

DR. ED TORRENTE, a physician, talks about the Bo Chico in the area.

The neighborhood has gained popularity for its art and photo galleries, furniture showrooms, chic restaurants, and a mood adjoining one side of the street (see related story at left), making the area's a promising art district.

"We tried to make Reposo the art center of Makati," Eduardo Soler, art gallery owner and president of Grupo Reposo Inc., told the business in an interview.

The non-profit organization, launched in March 2004, is composed of more than 20 business establishments in the area. Soler and his wife, Inez, Jose Maria Yusko and William Tan are among the group's pioneers.

Crossroad

Grupo Reposo Inc., according to Soler, was formed to promote the district as "a crossroad of the arts and design from Reposo and Mosers streets."

Last year, the group launched the first street art festival, "Think Sterling in Reposo" with the support of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Art appreciation

This was followed by last month's "Pinatubo at Mudbuhay sa Reposo," an activity which coincided with Makati's foundation anniversary and was aimed at bolstering the group's drive to awaken people's appreciation for culture and arts.

"We want to serve as a model for urban communities, encouraging them to take back their inner-city areas through the visual arts, music and cultural events," the group said.

Not far from now, Grupo Reposo sees a "spillover" of the art district to other neighboring areas. "If that happens, then we have made the area a destination zone, where people could come when they visit Makati," Yusko said.

Labada, iniwan. Cash, napanalunan!

Congratulations to the Grand Draw winners!

Babad Sarap! sa McDo

Php 100,000 Winners

Lorelie A. Chan	Cavite	Juliet Cena	Cagayan De Oro
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Php 1,000 Winners

Name	Address
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Eluminda Fajardo	Cebu
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Josefito Angado	Cebu
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Marijoan Bustamig	Cebu
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Helen Ofiaza	Marikina
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Julieti Flores	Manila
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Lauranyr Sanial	Sampaloc
Leonardo Gadiel	Manila
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Leonida Sunuz	Marikina
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Ruel Zapico	Quezon City
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Php 1,000 Winners

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Sheila Flores	Tanza
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Segunda Amancio	Cebu
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Lidia Sabio	Pangasinan
Maryjoan Tabingo	Cagayan
Priscilla Bautista	Pangasinan
Ruben Dalida	Pangasinan
Adora Boquiren	Bacoor
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Benjamin Dela Rosa Jr.	Muntinlupa
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Cresilda Quibao	Antipolo
Edgar Ramoso	Antipolo
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Elano Feginaran Jr.	Quezon
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Emmanuel Dela Cruz	Malabon
Evelyn Brasas	Manila
Fedelita Dayot	Marikina
Flora Dadia	Cubao
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Gregorio Eva	Quezon City
Jaquelyn Javier	Pasig
Jethro Ramores	Tondo
Jennifer Dyano	Quezon City
Josefina Vigo	Marikina
Josephine Franco	Caloocan
Jovelyn De Villa	Sampaloc
Lisney Rose Jardin	Marikina
Lolita Cubinar	Manila
Lorna Hapi	Pasig
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Nora Teresa Bayker	Tondo
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Maryjane Endjet	Taguig
Mercedilon Abaya	Manila
Mckreen Gil Rosete	Makati
Mimi Ann Gonzales	Rizal
Nemesia Dela Cruz	Marikina
Neri Lanada	Caloocan
Romeo Javier	Quezon City
Sheila Icrete	Cavite
Paula Mongking	Manila
Restituto Padilla	Quezon City
Reynaldo Mercado	San Juan
Rina Ana Mauding	Guadalupe
Rina Palano	Rizal
Rodelia Aquino	Bulacan
Rosario Capistrano	Valenzuela
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Teresita J. Gil	Manila
Cristina Cayabano	Caloocan
Judith Sarmiento	Pampanga
Katherine Cinco	Olongapo
Nelly Tolentino	Bataan
Fe Tungpal	Cagayan
Isaah Arellano	Tuguegarao
Ma Rona Santiago	
Santiago Garma III	Cagayan

Php 10,000 Winners

Name	Address
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Evelyn Gador	Imus, Cavite
Lalaine Sirabo	Pangasinan
Rey Antonette Bawil	Cagayan De Oro
Alda P. Apod	Cavite
Alonzo Jove	Rizal
Aylen Antipolo	Taguig
Ismea Sanchez	Taguig
Catherine Bernardo	Quezon City
Cecille Castro	Bulacan
Delia Cabrera	Quezon City
Diana Lucini	Sta. Mesa
Ellen Jumillen	Quezon City
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Elpidio Santos Jr.	Manila
Emelita Reyes	Valenzuela
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Helen P. Guillen	Valenzuela
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Jimmy Cabiling	Rizal
Juan Cruz	Bulacan
Jocelyn Isidro	Quezon City
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Jose Santiago	Mandaluyong
Judy Cachero	Marikina
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Noemi Hinongolo	Pasig
Oranda Medimon	Bulacan
Paulene Cruz	Rizal
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Ariel

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever

My absentee father, my super 'ninong'

IMPORTED Aileen, Jesse, Chesskiera, name it, the author has hectic "catup duratyan pa." Thanks to his father Jesus Camacho (above with his mother Rosalie) who has been working in the US for the past 20 years.

By Glen S. Camacho
Contributor

PESO DEPRECIATION ISN'T REALLY BAD NEWS for all Filipinos. There is a constantly growing number of Filipinos who pray that the peso would go down a little bit more. A huge chunk of these people belong to those who depend on OFW remittances, to those whom a depreciating peso means a larger allowance. greenbacks.

My father has been working abroad for 20 years now and I am what you can call, an OFW child. He left this country in 1986, when I was just one year old. I really have been in love with my father and our relationship was like when I was just a 1-year old but my mother remembers. Whenever there is a payphone that our house had every day, my mother would tell me that the day he left, I wouldn't stop crying.

When I think about it now, loudly, he is very good man as a papa (not too bad, things, dikit)! go that way after he went away I was left in the care of my mother.

I was here when I was 3

In 1988, when I was three years old, my dad returned to the country for his first vacation. Whenever some-one returned after only 1 year to two years, they would call it a visit. I had just turned 3 when my father came home. After going home and cheddaring out the pasalubong he had brought for his childhood years. I quickly developed my own idea of what a father was. Feeding-cognizance was the stuff he brought home for me, my brother and sister, I think my father up some nice person who liked me a lot and gave me toys and candy. It is like my favorite cartoon, ever, by far!

I also took care of the festive season that followed that vacation. Christmas and New Year's Eve were always a big deal in our family. Our house was filled with relatives and friends coming over to greet my father on his safe return. I remember how my father would always be in the middle of the crowd, with a bottle of beer in his hand, laughing and telling stories about his adventures in the Middle East. I was always in awe of him. I remember how I would always be in his lap, listening to his stories, and how I would always fall asleep in his arms. I remember how I would always wake up in my bed the next morning, wondering how I got there.

I remember how my father would always bring home pasalubong for everyone in the family. I remember how he would always bring home a lot of chocolates and candies for me and my siblings. I remember how he would always bring home a lot of clothes for my mother. I remember how he would always bring home a lot of gifts for our relatives and friends. I remember how he would always bring home a lot of food for our family. I remember how he would always bring home a lot of love for our family.

Every time I see my father now, I still feel the same way. I still feel the same love and admiration for him. I still feel the same gratitude for all the sacrifices he has made for our family. I still feel the same pride in being his son. I still feel the same joy in being with him. I still feel the same sadness when he has to leave us again. I still feel the same hope that he will come back soon. I still feel the same faith that he will always be there for us.

My father has been working abroad for 20 years now and I am what you can call, an OFW child. I left this country in 1988

Human transfer of bird flu confirmed in Indonesia

JAKARTA—AN INDONESIAN WOMAN DIED after catching the AH5N1 bird flu virus from her 10-year-old son, representing the country's confirmed case of human-to-human transmission of the disease, a World Health Organization investigation of an unusual family cluster has concluded, the agency said Friday.

The WHO investigators also discovered that the virus had mutated slightly when the

[illegible] survival the disease, although not in any way that would allow the virus to pass more easily among people.

"It's a slightly altered, but in a way that viruses commonly mutate," said Dick Thompson, a spokesperson for the agency in Geneva. "But that didn't make it more transmissible or cause more severe disease."

The genetic importance of the slightly modified virus is that it allowed researchers from the WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States to document that the virus almost certainly was passed from person to person.

It is rare because other human-to-human transmission was suspected, researchers could not test samples from the patients, or the virus in the patients was the same as that in poultry in the area.

Scientists have long said the AH5N1 virus, which has killed hundreds of millions of birds worldwide, does not spread easily to humans or among them. But they have warned that it might mutate to a version that could, setting off a devastating pandemic. More than 230 people have contracted bird flu worldwide, almost all of them after very close contact with infected birds.

International health officials have been in Indonesia for much of the past month, investigating a family outbreak that allowed some scientists to infer [illegible], a remote village in the mountainous East district of Sumatra. Six of the seven dead, and one is still unidentified.

Indonesia has been struggling all year to control bird flu outbreaks among poultry that the family or humans had no known direct contact with and birds, although the first to die was a woman who sold vegetables to a trader that also sold birds. AFP

World slums set for huge growth, UN forum told

VANCOUVER, CANADA—A MASS CRUSH of urban growth around the world will be concentrated in slums that will become a magnet for terrorists and crime, the UN World Urban Forum was warned as it closed Friday.

If left unchecked, slums will become "centers of deprivation and instability," Inga Björk-Klevby, assistant UN secretary general, told conferencing on the future of cities at the forum.

The State of the World Cities report presented at the conference said that 94 percent of urban growth will be in slums, and that by 2030 one of 10 people in the world would live in cities.

Clive Hamilton, president of Britain's Town and Planning Institute, asserted that housing slums to double will increase security threats and that urban terrorism "is having an increasing impact on cities, and all projections suggest further political violence will continue to escalate." "Cities not only make the target of terrorists, but if their unplanned growth leads to marginalized people, that can lead to extremism itself," said Hamilton.

He warned that slums and wealthy suburbs in Westernized cities, marked by upscale and conspicuous consumption in a much higher rate than the world average, are equally unsustainable, and that growth is a cause of climate change.

Many speakers at the conference said governments and agencies must involve populations in the communities under the problems.

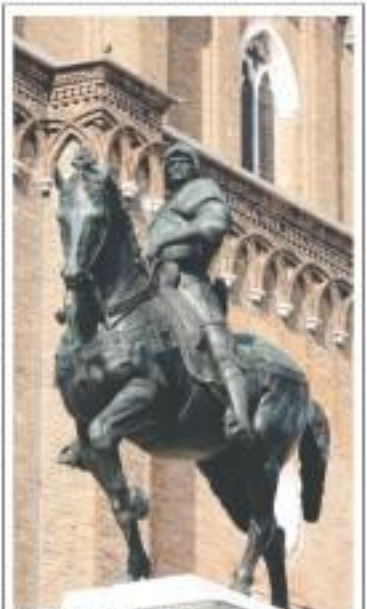
"We are fed up with losing the subject of the agenda," said Nan Mokhooane of the South African Homeless People's Federation and Shack/Slumdwellers International.

"We are fed up with just sitting down and seeing governments doing every thing for us ... give us land, give us security of tenure." Global funding agencies need to change how they operate, said Stephen Hamnett of the Bartlett Institute of the British-based International Institute for Infrastructure, Real Estate and Development.

Many agencies give money to central governments "by the name of infrastructure construction," he said, while adding that funds should go directly to small projects "to support the initiatives of grass roots organizations." The next World Urban Forum will be held in two years in Nanjing, China, where the pace of urbanization is among the world's fastest.

There are already 600 cities in China, compared to 220 cities 20 years ago, said Chinese researcher Gaowei Kai, of the Japan-based Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

"This enormous transformation is not going to stop or to be reversed," she asserted, and so China has to overcome its challenges of extreme pollution and the loss of agricultural areas to urban development. AFP



RESTORED AFTER THREE YEARS

The "Constantine" equestrian statue of Bartolomeo Colleoni, which stands in front of the Campo San Giovanni e Paolo in Venice, unveiled June 23 after three years of restoration, thanks to World Monuments Fund. AFP

US Treasury defends secret money tracking

WASHINGTON—US TREASURY SECRETARY John Snow on Friday defended a secret program for monitoring financial transactions, calling it "government at its best" and a valuable aid for fighting terrorism.

The study first came to light after the Sept. 11 2001 terror attacks. Treasury has been tapping into records of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) for evidence of potential activity by terror groups.

Despite Treasury's efforts to keep it quiet, the New York Times had the program up in detail on Friday, forcing Treasury to confirm it within complaining about the revelation.

"As part of our efforts to track the funds of terrorists, we are confirming that we have subpoenaed records on certain financial transactions from SWIFT," Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey said in a hastily called press conference.

"The legal basis for this subpoena is crystal clear and absolutely clear," he added. Levey said it was "a great loss" that the surveillance program had been revealed but indicated that it still continues.

"I think that this program still ... has the potential to still be powerful," Levey said.

Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy said the program is a threat to Americans' privacy and an example of the Bush administration's efforts to expand the power of the executive branch. But White House spokesperson Tony Snow said it seemed to "shut off the spigot" to block terror groups moving money.

Snow said the surveillance program was producing results.

"By following the money, we've been able to locate operatives, we've been able to know their finances, we've been able to share the terrorist networks and we've been able to bring the terrorists to justice," he said.

SWIFT is an operator owned by the approximately 7,800 financial institutions in more than 200 countries that use it.

Levey indicated that some tens of thousands of transactions that have passed through SWIFT have been examined. Reuters

26 journalists killed worldwide this year

SWEDISH Cameraman Martin Adler on a roadtrip in Baghdad in this December 2005 photo. Adler was killed June 23, in Mogadishu. REUTERS

BEIJING—A SPREEDING JOURNALIST gunned down in broken Somalia Friday brought to more than 20 this number of journalists killed worldwide this year, as they face increasingly danger in a world with 9/7 being targeted trying to be shot dead.

Martin Adler, a Swedish photographer and reporter, became the 26th journalist killed in 2006, according to a tally by the Paris-based Reporters without Borders. Reporters sans Frontieres. RSF's Another 12 media assistants have also lost their lives the year, RSF added.

"This was an appalling murder, one that turns journalists into pawns in the hands of shad armed thugs that see such writers in their hands for power," the press freedom group said in a statement about the latest killing in Somalia.

The journalist's most dangerous assignments remains Iraq, where half of this year's killings took place, making it the deadliest year for reporters since World War II, according to RSF.

In the past two months alone, a British cameraman and a second technician working for the US broadcaster CBS were killed in Iraq while traveling with a US military convoy that came under attack, RSF said.

Early this month, two Iraqi journalists working for local television channel Al Sabaah TV were found dead in a canal after being stopped on their way home by gunmen dressed in police uniforms. AFP

Zawahiri vows to avenge Zarqawi

DUBAI—AL-QAEDA NUMBER TWO AYMAN al-Zawahiri vowed in a videotape on Al-Jazeera television Friday to avenge the death of the terror network's Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, killed in a US air raid June 7.

"In 3 Sept, none of us is killed without us avenging him, with the help of God," said Zawahiri, addressing US President George W. Bush in the backdrop of a picture of Zarqawi.

"Do you remember (1 Sept, hour the loss of Sheikh, the mujahed Sheik warned Osama bin Laden, God keep him, more than America will not be able to dream of security until it (security) becomes a reality in Palestine and all Muslim lands?" Zawahiri said.

He was referring to al-Qaeda leader and mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted man.

"Try in vain to dream of security," Zawahiri told Bush in his first statement on Zarqawi's death, despite having appeared on two videos since the killing of al-Qaida's Iraq chief.

"As to the Americans, I tell them: Yes, the courageous hero and martyrdom-seeker Abu Musab (Zarqawi) is gone, and was killed," the Egyptian-born Zawahiri said.

"Tell me how many of you really died (in Iraq), how much your economy has suffered, the morale of your soldiers is crumbling ...

"Bush is lying to you when he says that you will be victorious if you kill Osama bin Laden, the leader of Afghanistan's Taliban

ABU MUSAB great-uncle from Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television, June 13 shows al-Qaida number two Ayman al-Zawahiri vowing to avenge the death of the network's Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi killed in a US air raid June 7. AFP

government Mullah Omar and the members of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban," Zawahiri said.

"The lying soldier (Bush) is hiding from you the disaster you face. His aim not having achieved its organizational goals, you are up against the nation-of-Islam, fired by the spirit of Jihad (holy war)," he added.

Zawahiri blamed Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad for being "heroes for the first to announce news (of Zarqawi's death) to the world," saying Maliki "broke with Islam" for power and describing Khalilzad as "the slightest apostate."

Not only does Maliki seek to prevent "resistance to the occupier," but "he fought the mujahedeen (holy warriors) under Bush's crusader banner," Zawahiri said.

Zarqawi "died under humiliation" and not in fighting, and rotten dead his "unpleasant look," said Zawahiri, who was shown flanked by a machinegun in the footage. AFP

Aaron Spelling, prolific US TV producer, dies

LOS ANGELES—LEGENDARY TELEVISION producer Aaron Spelling, who launched a string of star-studding global hits such as Dynasty, Charlie's Angels and Beverly Hills, 90210, died of cancer on Friday. He was 83.

Mr. Spelling died at 6:35 p.m. this afternoon, he was in his home in Beverly Hills with his wife Candy and son Tracey at his bedside. Most famous of his daughter Tori was with him at this moment," his publicist Steven Sands said.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Spelling was "the most prolific TV producer of all time," producing more than 5,000 hours of television programming, including more than 300 hours of made-for-television movies and at least 10 new films.

He produced some 200 television shows from the 1960s to date, also including The Love Boat, Melrose Place, Family, The Love Boat, Melrose, Hart to Hart, T.J. Hooker, Beverly Hills, Hotel, Melrose Place, Seventh Heaven and Charmed. People magazine named it in its online edition.

Dynasty star Joan Collins once wrote upon meeting Joan Collins, Linda Evans and John Forsythe, which was shown around the world, became the most widely watched series in television history.

Spelling, Leonard Goldberg and Aaron Spelling joined forces in 1976 to make the de-mons' drama family, a true critical success for Spelling, often blasted for making escapist offerings, than on substance and long on glitzy locations and pretty people. Family went four Emmy Awards for acting. AFP

AARON Spelling poses for a portrait in 1996. AP

US stumped on whether to raise wages

By Kelly Kasa

WASHINGTON—THE STATES SENATE IN Congress this week over whether to raise the US minimum wage from $5.15 an hour has not under parliament but also economists, who differ over whether it helps or hurts the working poor.

Democrats—who have been proposed to raise the federal minimum wage to $7.25 an hour by January 2009 go down to defeat the measure—say many more workers would have given 6.5 million Americans $4,800 more to spend each year.

"Every day the minimum wage is not increased, it continues to lose value and working families fall further behind," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat whose amendment was voted down on Wednesday along mostly party lines.

But many economists argue that forcing employers to raise the amount they pay entry-level workers may sometimes hiring, particularly given competition from low-wage immigrant workers.

The minimum wage has not increased since September 1997, although Democrats have tried several times since then to pass legislation. Only in the 1990s was there a longer period of inaction, during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, the father of President George W. Bush.

"Congress is on track to be the longest-

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

US 'domestic terrorists' haled to court

MIAMI—US ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES said Friday that "domestic terrorism" could become as big a threat as al-Qaida, as seven men appeared in court accused of plotting to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago.

The five Americans and two of migrants appeared in court in Miami a day after their arrest. Six were detained in Miami and a seventh in Atlanta, Georgia.

They were caught after approaching a federal Bureau of Investigation undercover agent who they believed was an al-Qaida member, prosecutors said.

According to the charges, the seven had sworn allegiance to al-Qaida, which carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The leader of the group admitted in undercover agent his weapons, equipment and money to finance a "war against the US government," the charges said, adding that the group had pledged to "kill all the devils we can."

However, US Muslim groups denied the plotters were Muslims and said they were members of a cult.

The seven face four terrorism conspiracy counts, including a plot to blow up the 442-meter-high Sears Tower in Chicago, the third largest building in the world, and the FBI regional headquarters and other buildings in Miami.

According to the charges, the Miami group, which called itself the "Seas of David," had studied the 442-meter-high Sears Tower, the third largest building in the world, and other targets.

The charges said that its alleged leader, Narseal Batiste, recruited individuals for an operation "which included a plot to destroy by explosives the Sears Tower."

Batiste told the undercover agent that he was "organizing a mission to build an Islamic Army" in order to wage jihad." He requested money, boots, uniforms, machine guns, audios and vehicles.

Officials said that no weapons or explosives had been seized in of the Thursday.

The arrests took place in Liberty City, a poor neighborhood in northern Miami, whose residents said the men appeared to be part of a cult of at least seven people, sleeping in a warehouse, dressing in robes like dashiq and doing exercises. AFP

ARTIST'S rendering shows Narseal Batiste, one of seven men arrested in an alleged plot to bomb the Sears Tower in Chicago standing before federal judge Patricia White June 22 in Miami. AP

US FIGHTER jets lined up in "Valiant Shield," the largest US military exercise in the Pacific since the Vietnam War, meant to demonstrate to N. Korea the US' ability to "quickly assess" a large combat force should the need arise. AP

Asia likely to cheer if US strikes down N. Korea missile, analysts say

TAIPEI, TAIWAN—MOST ASIAN nations would cheer—some loudly, many silently—if the US knocks down a long-range missile tested by North Korea. But a failed attempt to intercept it would send serious shivers through the region, analysts say.

Many countries in Asia still rely on US military might to keep the peace in the volatile region—home to some of the world's most dangerous potential flash points: the Taiwan Strait, India-Pakistan and the Koreas.

So Washington is being closely watched in Asia as it deals with North Korea's possible preparations to test-fire a Taepodong-2 missile, which may be able to hit the American mainland.

The US believes the missile is being readied for a launch.

Washington has said it would pursue diplomatic means to stop the test, but there has been wide speculation the US would use its fledgling missile defense system to try striking down the weapon.

Would the secret would support, fear, condemnation or silent relief from Asia?

K.S. Nathan, a regional security analyst at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, said Asia would be pleased to see the US stop the test.

"I think the general consensus would be to say that North Korea is disciplined to some sorts, or prevented from launching the missile," Nathan said.

But those who wouldn't be displaying in public might include South Korea and China, some analysts said.

"South Korea probably wouldn't support it openly," said Kenneth Kirby, director of the Greater Asia Studies at Australian National University. "There would be some elements in the government, but if they were forced to make a statement one way or another, I suspect it would be their worst-case/right-dangers do."

China would also frown on a US attempt to hit the missile, said Ayden Yang, a senior student at the Chinese Center for Advanced Policy Studies in Taiwan's capital, Taipei.

"It would mean that the US is adopting a confrontational strategy against North Korea, and that goes against China's policy of using dialogue," Yang said. "The bottom line for China is that they don't want any escalation of tension in the region." AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sunday SPORTS

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- Heat celebrate a fulfilled promise /A28

Hot start for Knights, Cardinals

ST. BENILDE'S Francisco Cudia tries to drive past Letran's Ray Dargoal (right).

LEADS TOUGOUON
(Mico-Ayala Holiday)
12 mn—Efren Dan Dela Cruz
1 Dela Cruz—San Beda at Imperial Cup
10 a.m.—St. Benilde vs Letran

By Mac Anthony Reyes

LETRAN COULDN'T HAVE chosen a more fitting venue to dedicate its title-retention bid.

Right at the start of the season, in front of a capacity crowd at the Araneta Coliseum, the defending champion crushed host St. Benilde, 55-44, in the NCAA men's basketball competition yesterday.

Making the most of what was left of their revamped lineup, the Knights employed a turn-paced, highly aggressive game that caught the Blazers disinformed in the entire game.

Team captain Ryan Buenios led the team together by scoring 16 points, handling eight rebounds, issuing four assists and stealing once in the Knights' pushed through their bid for an unprecedented 3-peat title.

"We were struggling but I think they struggled even worse," said Letrans coach Louie Alas, whose team survived the exodus of its stars Jonathan Aldawe, JP Alcarse, Mark Andrews, Kirk Hodgson and Jonathan Polanco to the Philippine Basketball League.

In the second game, Jeffrenn Gonzales scored five of his 16 points in the final minute as Ateneo defeated Philippine Christian University's last-chick uprising for a 4th

42 victory.

Alex Gonzalez's leaden made a 64-30 for the Cardinals in the last minutes, the Dolphins, last year's runners-up, closed back with two-quick turnovers from James Canlas and Jesus Ildefonso to threaten it 42-44.

But the veteran Cardinal proved steady in the final line, making three of his four shooting to hand Mapua the win.

Assistant coach Joel Tiongco called the shots for the Dolphins, but assistant coach Aniel Bacali was seen seated behind the FCU bench. He was reportedly being retained as team consultant and intended to be reinstalled as head coach after this round.

However, Tiongco stressed that Bacali was there as a "supporter" and made it through the entrance with a sticker.

The former PBA enforcer added that he was disappointed as the rookie lay-key players performed especially Gabby Espinas, who could only make nine points.

"It shows the way they will play, making only 20 points in three quarters, that any coach would have a hard time," said Tiongco in explaining his reasons for quitting.

The Knights limited the Blazers to just six points in the first quarter and never looked back from thereon.

It might have been a different story if the Blazers managed to cash their 14 free throws in the first half, but St. Benilde just executed right, failing to take advantage of the Knights' leading frenzy.

Buenios fired three triples and ran the Knights' lastminutes that padded 11 points and left the Blazers' defense in disarray. That was four trade up for the absence of Aaron Aban, who failed to see action yesterday due to a sore injury.

Oswald Reyes sank three free throws in the last 18 seconds as Perpetual avenged a non-consensual collapse with a 72-67 victory over San Sebastian in the third game.

The Altas led by as many as 15 points (38-42) on the boards but relaxed their defenses to allow the Stags to creep within 57-63.

The scores:

First Game (1st)

LETRAN (55)—Buenios 16, Jurd 17, Gabriel 9, Sidney 8, Ramirez 3, Dargoal 4, Gonzales 2, Ildefonso 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos

V-LEAGUE

Lyceum stuns AdU; La Salle checks slide

LYCEUM RELIEVER playing the spoiler's role.

Meeting out of the dramatic ending into, Lyceum pulled off a thrilling 14-15, 30-30, 15-22, 19-25, 15-10 victory over AdU Monday afternoon yesterday in the penultimate playdate of the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle gym.

The Lady Pirates, who won their last four games after a woeful start, let Adamson star Cherry Mecatongay's 33-point performance go to waste with a muscle jump in the deciding set.

Lyceum wound up with an 8-7 card and will fight for third place against the loser of the knotting duel for the second finish slot between Adamson and San Sebastian.

Ms. Concepcion Legaspi, the third best scorer in the league, played true to form and came away with 20 points and drove solid support from Beverly Boro, Rubilin Cruz and Sherelyn Castillo, who had 12, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Meantime, the league's leading scorer with an aggregate of 343 points, failed to lead the Lady Falcons in thwarting the stubborn Lyceum side in the 150th set. The Lady Falcons fell to a 9-9 record.

Adamson, which also drew 21 and 18 points from Belcher Ann Bore and Rufie de Leon, respectively, remained in second behind early finalist La Salle.

With the setback, the Lady Falcons might have lost the momentum they need if they get to play San Sebastian in a knockout duel for the remaining Finals slot.

To have a playoff however, the Lady Bingi must prevail over the JRU spikers in the last semifinal playdate tomorrow.

With four wins in the semis, JRU needs to battle FEU to seal itself of the league's Lady incentive for a crack at the second championship berth. A loss, however, will set the Bingi for the "best-of-three" series between La Salle and Adamson, which are hoping to be the UAAP stars.

Meanwhile, La Salle recorded a back-to-back losing skid after sweeping the first 12 games in it bounced FEU, 15-30, 30-24, 25-18, in the second game.

Allan Ariel Sotto/Pilipino Star

ALASKA'S Rey Hugnatan (right) barricades Purefoods' Rey Baysosa.

Red Bull, Purefoods vow to sustain fire

Game 1— Red Bull d. San Miguel, 86-79
Alaska vs. Purefoods, 04 ET
Game 2— San Miguel vs. Red Bull, 11 AM
Alaska vs. Purefoods, 06 ET
Game 3— Red Bull vs. San Miguel, 06 ET
Purefoods vs. Alaska, 02 PM

RED BULL AND PUREFOODS are bent on keeping their momentum in the semifinals of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals today.

The Bulls and the Giants vowed to put keeping the momentum high on their priority list in Game 4 of the best-of-seven affair at the Araneta Coliseum.

After San Miguel beat back the series at 1-1, the Bulls came charging back with a 99-95 win in Game 3 that pushed them a couple of games away from snapping up the two-to-four edge.

"This is a pivotal game," said Red Bull coach Bong Ginez. "The momentum should now shift to us and we intend to keep it that way."

The Bulls' workhorse, double-digit deficits in the second half and Danny Seigle's 37-point explosion to move ahead, 3-1, in the series.

"We can't take away all from Jun Magsaysay, Gabe Norwood, Mike Cortez, Jason Castro and Wesley Gonzales outside the paint," said Ginez, referring to the Bulls' reserves who came from the low blocks and threw point range. "We got out of rotation because of poor decisions and fighting lanes."

Scoring 32 of his points after the third, Seigle was credited with fouls and with the bench. When coach Jong Uichico substituted him, Seigle can never cold and missed three straight point-blank attempts that could have reversed the outcome.

The Bulls will also have to keep coach Yeng Guiao in the paint and Brandon Bautista, Glen Rondo, Chris Calaguio and Wesley Gonzales outside the perimeter.

Coming out of a 0-2 pit after winning Game 2 that also shifted the flavor on Game 3 but also shifted the flavor on Game 4 for the Giants.

"We like it when we are right now," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "The momentum has shifted not only offensively but defensively as well."

The No. 1 defender team after the classification round opened their offense down to the wings, with Jeffrey Cariaso 1 and 2 when Jason Webb concentrated on James Yap and Rich Rustmundo.

"We now know the formula and count Sunday (today). The Cone will make the adjustment," said Gregorio. "But we don't care anymore about our opponents. We just care about what we will do on the court."

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:00 p.m.— Red Bull vs. San Miguel (Game 4)
6:02 p.m.— Purefoods vs. Alaska

Alcano downs Gallego in US

FORMER AC BLUMES STOOPER OF THE "Iron Rooster Wonder Calender" dicator Alcano demolished friend "Bobby" Gallego, 36-0, on Friday to remain in the winner's bracket of the 29 man field International Bowl Tour (IBT) qualification tournament at the Las Vegas Bowl-Mor Alcano to Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

The 33-year-old Alcano started Bowl-Mor Bowl, 10-1, in the opening round and is scheduled to meet US-based Filipino-American Danny Fernandez, who beat Korean Shin Park, 33-6, and Richard Burns, 18-5, respectively.

Meet Arena meteorologist spearheaded an alliance to shut at Boss Boys (Montano), and others, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games double gold winner to an overtime call yesterday. Set to go drag race quickly on IFT "Boat gave up unbeknown to an time Dennis Orcollo at Gandy Dalisay.

Another Filipino, nemesis "Dickey" Gaing bested to Jesse Bonanzan, 15-6, in the second rounds to join Gallego in the loser's bracket.

Losing the 2006 Japan Open champion, bested Anthony Pinero 13-8, in the first round.

Other Filipinos who lose on round down to IFT qualification tournament were 2004 World Nine-ddist three "The Line" Filipinos Marcos "Marlon" Ramos, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Santos Sandejas. They advanced to the grand finals with unified players led by 1999 World Nine winner Efren "Bata" Reyes and 2002 World pool champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante, joint World Nine 3rd player Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo and Filipino pool legend Jose "Jaming" Parico. Alcano Bernardino

Taekwondo jins join world meet

THE FETICH PHILIPPINE TAEKWON do Team will be competing in the 8th World Taekwondo Festival and Kuro Open Championships in Georgia, Seoul, Korea on June 26-30.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aranzaldo, "20 to 30 athletes will be competing in Seoul, the US and Japan will be active in the event.

The jins will be accompanied by delegation head Ricardo Santiago Jr. and members Claudia Guerrero, Rolando Fuentes and Rolando Medalla Jr.

The Philippine Team members—John Arpon Filipino, Erik Allen Evangelista, Angeldilan Bueno, Dary John Gregory, Justin Lorenzo de Leon and Kristian Bautista.

Junior—Daniel John Dimacion, Bellarmine Alaban, Alpha Basilio Lozano, Mark Steven Panes, Jonathan Mark Lacuesta, Vincent Jerome Alcaraz, Ethan Christopher Ignatius Dizon, Karol Domingo, Mark Valentin and Jacob Jose Abaya.

Cadets—Kenneth Bautista Jr. and Raul Luciano Jr.

MPL-FA's formula for success

THE VICTORIOUS MPL-FA team

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE JUST fillers.

Pretty runners, dressed to be sun decorators and trophy to play against the big guns of the traditional football powerhouses.

But looks could be deceiving. The Metropolitan Pantheon Los Pilitos Basketball Association (MPL-FA) players, too, were a handy bunch. Trained to be toughhead tough when needed.

Toppling their opponents with occasional precision, they eventually landed in the Final of the 2006 Philippine Football Federation (PFF) National Women's Under-17 Championship held last May in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

Even then, there were skeptics. The MPL-FA, a relatively new schools watch of Manila, was tagged the underdog against the more experienced Iloilo team.

Again, the MPL-FA girls pulled off a surprise. Charging back to score a 2-1 decision that made them the first associate member of the PFF to clinch a national tournament. A feat that caused

BP TOP CHOICE

attentions and applause from a big crowd at the well-kept San Julio Realty Football Field.

After all, the Metro Manilans toppled one side that Dumpster, but also the crowd favorites, Cebuanos and Negrenses in the 12-team tournament organized by the San Carlos City Football Club in coordination with the Negros Occidental Football Association and the City of San Carlos.

For MPL-FA coach Irene Garcia, however, the victory wasn't unexpected. It was a product of meticulous planning, training, even scouting.

Six weeks before the tournament, the girls toiled in tournament-duty under a tight training system designed by Marlon Mara, the head coach of the Philippine Women's team.

Garcia, a team manager with MPL-FA president Cathy Rivilla of the 2005 SEA Games Philippine Women's team, employed Mara's coupled movements on offense and defense, including a swimming exercise used to demobilize opponents. The squad also devoted time on set plays and how to capitalize on opponent's mistakes.

Other members of the MPL-FA coaching staff—Peters Fernandez of Woodrose School, Melvin Barrios of Pen Kathren University and assistant coaches Gerry Mores, Lalaine Salazar and Jojo Bolano—also threw in invaluable pointers that made the girls even sharper. Also Roberto, physiotherapist, on the sidelines hand, made sure that they were in top-top shape.

In short, MPL-FA developed into potent, cohesive team ready to test some ace.

Proof: Apart from their collective effort, the MPL-FA girls also took home individual awards for best goalkeeper (Cris Trinidad), best in midfield (Jessica Ryan), best defender (Rebecca Fernandez) and most valuable player (team captain Jeanette Alquiros).

Truly, they have the stuff of champs.

—Ely Lucero

Tan Ho snares 4th title

THIRD SEED JOSHUA TAN HO KEPT her poise under pressure to claim her fourth straight girls' 12-under title yesterday in the 7th Copa de Manila Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Playing with a big, lighting heart in the finals set, Tan Ho fought off a service trap and thwarted Miss Olivares, 6-2, 4-5, (15-6) and improved Bob Israel to head encounters to 4-2.

"I always expect a tough match against Shamila," said the 11-year-old Tan Ho. "After winning the first set, I relaxed a bit but I tried to get my mental back and keep my focus in the tie-break. I'm determined to win and I'm glad I did." Tan Ho, a grade 5 student at the Immaculate Conception Academy in San Juan, also won the Boys, Manila Polo Club Dunlop and Head Boys Manila Jeep early this year.

In other girls results, top seed Bea Zobel outplayed second seed Trudy Silos 6-0, 6-3, while Bianca Lim of Silos 6-0, 6-2. Another fifth seeded Bianca Rivera, 6-0, 6-0. Second seed Stephan Santiago won the 14-under title over Jean Therese Opulencia, 6-1, 6-1.

Unranked Jasmine Dorine Mendiola, second 6-3, 6-2, 7-5, to claim the 10-under title while Bianca Jimenez to pocket the Kinds consecutive unbeat 10-under title after Silos's Head Ryan Marie Rivera Zobel.

Mendiola, however, lost the boys' 12-under title to Ateneo's Juan Pachelo Marcelino, who prevailed, 6-4, 6-2.

Third seed Kim Ivo Jimenez rallied past fourth seed Jose Lorenzo Power, 6-0, 2-6, 10-3, to capture the boys' 14-under title in the boys' division competition at Manila City Mayor and Confederation of Tennis Clubs Philippines, Inc. president Danilo Lacuna.

The boys' 16-under title went to Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, who scored 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over John Ivo Jimenez, while Jay and Russell Aurelio Jr. nailed the 18-under seven-city unranked Neil Dumaos, 6-1, 6-2.

NBC SELECTION: National Basketball Conference (NBC) president Nedrarid "Ric" Puddin (RR's boss left, standing) with (l-r) Sporting Director Ricardo Puno, announcer who will defend in Crown Prince Cup crown in Thailand June 24 to July 2. The NBC caged flew to Bangkok yesterday.

Real Spicy adds spice to Gran Copa

By Mayong B. Castillo

CABANUNA, CAVITE—A STAR-STUDDED CAST LED BY GILBERT [illegible] Real Spicy soon action today, heralding their seed percentage to a Gran Copa de Manila Division 1 Stakes that has fired a lot of its hosters—and prize money—over the years.

The Builders horse by Real [illegible] Quite out of Spicy Tale, who has won his last six starts, is pitted formally to win the 1,700-meter race over an other crack track stars that include Speed Advantage at the Manila Speed Advantage at the Manila Southwoods Golf Club.

From other seed to be one of the richest races in local turf when the Primo family ran the Manila Jockey Club, the 26th running of the Gran Copa race has been [illegible] and [illegible] Filipino, was the highlight of a rainy racing year in the past, with each race in the program carrying added prizes that funds [illegible] winners in the lures of the day.

This format also lured the people to the races which made for blockbuster sales, with records established each year, making San Lazaro the dominant racetrack.

New Zealand import Unison Gem, Bubbles, Australian charger Thinkin and Canadian entries Lil's Annie and Their White Flame also imported from Australia, are the others in the Division 1 field that has a 5:05-p.m. post time.

Triple Crown winnings Tigero in Action and Unsung Silver make up Division 2, which will be flagged off at second to 2:46 p.m.

"It's a very prestigious event, I think it should have a bigger purse," Rep. Imelda Abaloz of Mandaluyong, also the Stables president, told the hosters in a phone interview "Because this is Philippine racing itself.

"[The] Gran Copa is one of the grandest races before and I really think it should be brought back to its old glory."

Abaloz, as well as representatives of the biggest horse-racing organizations, on Friday were amazed by new Philracom chair, retired general Fiesta, of a bigger staging of the Gran Copa starting next year.

"He [Gen. Fiesta] assured us that the Philracom will make the Gran Copa the biggest race in history," Abaloz added.

Real Spicy's last win came during the 6th Pres Governors Sprint Cup in May, where he was [illegible] a talented field that included Speed Advantage.

Jessie B. Evan partner is Benton Jaguiers in Real Spicy, a four-year-old chestnut who is rewarding the pair's ambitions. Wind Blown took in becoming the most dominant horse in the last couple of years.

KIBITZER

Tabuena finishes 2nd; Unson 3rd

THE STRONG HOLD-UP OF 9-ELEVEN JUNgolfers for new records Callaway Junior World Championships in San Diego, California, continued with Miguel Tabuena and double Unson running through yards impeccable finishes in the host Simpson tournament in Chula Vista City.

Tabuena submitted a three-under card in placing second in American hosted Optimist, while finished in six under.

Tabuena was already five under going to the back nine but [illegible] bogey that clinched a struggling enter in the back nine.

Unson came third in 11-12 girls division, with a seven-over card.

Only two days ago, Abby Unson topped her division in the Optimist Pacific Rough tourney in Illinois.

Tabuena, Unson and Jennifer Jayne pair of the 46-player strong 50 contingent competing in the Junior World on June 9-15 in six different courses in San Diego.

SPORTSWATCH

Corporate tilt

SEVENTY-FIVE IN THE CORPORATE DIVISION 4-on-4 basketball [illegible] Championships today with 28 teams belonging to the top 1,000 companies in the country fighting it out for turf in the main time of Ronnel Sevilla at Makati City. Defending champion the Philippine Star heads the lineup field that includes NOK, Philstar Mail and Air Manila, while Manulife, Fortune Tobacco, Allied Bank Center and Kamanabo Motors Phils. composed the Group B carrier the quarter finals for all the teams guaranteed to [illegible] Play starts shortly at 8 a.m. with action at 40-minutes among fifteen 11-0-4. Another 40-game schedule is on tap in the afternoon for Group 5 to 8.

Petrosana today

PETROSANA CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE INC. [illegible] for the PBL Reflections [illegible] championship between Jack Rose and Cheese Warriors. The fight was recently held at La Trinidad, Benguet. Petrosana Chairman [illegible] will be [illegible] through MIO-2000 Cebu's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Petrosana supported by Eastlink, POSO Expo and Magazine, is also [illegible] starting at 5:30 p.m., Sundays at [illegible] Both Petrosana and Jack Rose [illegible] The elimination match between College of Saint Benilde 4 and La Salerno University 2 at the PCCP Pharmacies on the Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Hatawan up July 1

CYCLING MINE FIELD IS SLATED TO BLOOM THE MOUNtainbike Mineral Tour Challenge scheduled by Mines & Geosciences Bureau on July 1, 8, 15 and 29, the [illegible] offering P8,5 million in guaranteed prizes to organizers to attract no less than 300 entries, according to race [illegible] Lopez. Carry this is P5,000. Meanwhile, the Mountainbiker Private Association of Mountainbikers or Jason [illegible] be hosted by Ping Capitan, Fred Carreon and Nellie Villalon. For an entry fee of P5,000, the race prize of slots is P500,000. For details, call 86-1-2251, 852-1608 and 892-0812 [illegible] for Bontoc to Jones.

JUBILANT ICE celebrates after winning the gold in the 1,000 Sanchean Asian Games.

RON AMALAO

Paz right on target

By Jasmine W. Paya

ESTEFFANY SAE REES ON TARGET FOR [illegible] Games

By the country's top archer still felt awed by the fact that she ranked 20th in the world on July this year.

"It was a big thing," said Paz. "The World Championships was a big eye-opener. Seeing the [illegible] around, I realized eighth don't really thought that we can do it. But we can excel in this sport."

Paz had a good run in 2005, capping the year by winning two gold medals in the women's individual and team compound events in the archery competition of the 23rd South [illegible] Games held December.

But the new wave of local archery admits it all started out of curiosity.

"I was watching the Olympics with my dad when we saw the archery competitors," said Paz. "So I got tired it was interesting. I'm really an artistic. I like to try different sports. I was a swimmer, I was also into football."

The skill from artistic pushed activities to a more sensitive sport didn't turn out difficult for the 20-year-old.

"It's [archery] natural for me to do it every day after school, even on holidays," said Paz. "I just loved it. It was like my satisfaction for myself."

Although it seems like anyone can easily pick up the sport, Paz said it takes a lot of time and focus to excel in archery.

"It's either you love it or you don't even bother to try again," she noted. "It's repetitive. Every shot, you have to think about your form. The wind is also a big big factor. Over it too, you'll never really know who will win. It's a mix of luck and skills. So we're also cautious."

But Paz, a junior psychology student from the University of the Philippines, has already trained hours to handle unpredictable pressure.

"It's all mental," she said. "You can have a perfect score in your training and practice, but when it comes closer to the competition and you don't have the nerves and the focus, everything goes down."

And while junior athletes need to keep their adrenaline in high gear, Paz shared that archery need to have a collected disposition.

"Before, I try to psyche myself up, that I should be excited before a competition," she said. "But it didn't turn out to be a good thing. Now, I have found a flow to relax about [it]. So I had to calm down and just enjoy what I'm doing. You learn that through experience."

And Paz plans to gain more exposure as she continues to do the rounds in local and international tournaments.

"There's no other [way] than to competing that you won't learn during training," she said. "But I will just have fun. Once I take it seriously and think that I always have to win, it will feel like a burden."

ORCOLLO. Produces 23 campaign.

Orcollo goes big time

SAID BENIDE ORCOLLO, THE small rice artist from Iloilo, San [illegible] did that, money is no longer the primary motivation.

After arriving from a brief but productive campaign in the United States, the 23-year-old pool's fifth-ranked in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Heat celebrate a fulfilled promise

MIAMI—MIAMI'S NEWEST crowned NBA champions hoisted the trophy in South Florida on Friday in front of an estimated 250,000 fans, fulfilling an 11-year quest by coach Pat Riley and a promise by Shaquille O'Neal.

O'Neal vowed to bring a championship to Miami when he was named to two years ago, and that championship was there after the Heat beat the Dallas Mavericks in six games for the title.

"That's something you can't expect until you are to it," Finals MVP Dwyane Wade said after the parade. "Our fans have been great. This experience right there was, just like Zo [Alonzo Mourning] said, overwhelming. I wouldn't go again."

Maybe he will—soon.

While Friday was about celebrating 2006, questions are already being asked about 2007.

Specifically, can the Heat repeat?

Because Dwyane Wade keeps getting better," said Laurence Bibbins, 28, a resident from Grand Gables.

"And he's already the best," chimed in twin sister Lindsey. Rooting undercover dudes tips, most of this team is coming back, so repeat talk is inevitable.

EVERY inch Pat Riley can't resist doing a lil' the celebratory jig. —

Wade and O'Neal are likely to be under contract in Miami for four more seasons; that's how long O'Neal has left on his deal, and Wade becomes eligible on July 1 for a long-term extension which will pay him at least $75 million.

The other starters—Udonis Haslem, veterans Walker and Jason Williams—all have multiyear deals still in place; Williams, however, will decide next week when to schedule surgery to relieve pain in his knee.

Riley and Mourning aren't so certain. Riley, 60, acknowledges the season-ending knee injury Mourning suffered in April, he said a new contract was coming in winter, but was largely noncommittal when the subject came up on Friday.

"I don't talk any [of that," said Riley, who's a four-time NBA champion. "I live you—but I can't answer that right now."

And Mourning clearly can still play. In his eight-point, six-rebound, Tuesday night effort in Game 6 clincher over the Mavericks. He hasn't made any plans official.

"Obviously, this would be the best way to go out—on top," Mourning said. "It truly would. At the same time, everybody is talking about we've got to do business now."

When O'Neal had the microphone, he quipped, left shoes, and shouted "One more year" to Mourning, and he smiled about, either.

"When, when, when, when," O'Neal said about Mourning's return to interrupt him as the rally started. "We all know Coach Riley's a great motivator. Who wants to see Coach Riley dance? Who wants to see Coach Riley dance? Give me some, Riley!"

With that, Riley danced. AP

MIAMI Heat superstars Dwyane Wade (left) and Shaquille O'Neal perform a rap set for the fans. —

O'Neal makes another vow

MIAMI—SHAQUILLE O'NEAL, #5-10-made good on a vow to deliver a National Basketball Association title to Miami, by championship belt and ring.

O'Neal and the Heat celebrated the first championship in the 16-year history of the Miami franchise at a downtown parade on Friday.

"We will do it again next year," O'Neal proclaimed. Such victory parades are nothing new to O'Neal, who enjoyed three with the Los Angeles Lakers from 2000-02.

The loudest cheering went to assistant coach Dwyane Wade and coach and president Pat Riley.

Wade averaged 34.7 points in the NBA Finals as the Heat won four straight games over the Dallas Mavericks after losing the first two games.

He scored 36 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the Heat's series-clinching 95-92 win in Dallas on Tuesday night.

"Dwyane, after me, MVP, MVP," O'Neal followed to the crowd before introducing Wade.

Wearing white sunglasses, Wade took a more humble approach to his address to the fans.

"This is for us with your various championships," Wade said.

Riley, who coached the Lakers to four titles in the 1980s, danced on the stage to the delight of the fans while O'Neal rapped to the crowd. Riley replaced Stan Van Gundy as coach on December.

Riley has won four NBA titles as coach with John Kundla of the Minneapolis Lakers with five titles. Only Red Auerbach and Phil Jackson have won more titles, with nine each. AFP

US Open winner hits technology, course changes

CHERRY Spedding his second win. —

MELBOURNE—SIDNEY CROSBY US Open champion Geoff Ogilvie will not let his name on a major title, nor stop him speaking his mind about advances in technology and course changes which he believes are hurting the game.

Ogilvy became the first Australian to win a major in 11 years and the first since 1981 to win the US Open with his victory at Pinehurst Farm Golf Club last month, but insists he will continue to oppose changes which he deems harmful to the game as a spectacle.

"I think golf is a better game when the ball goes shorter for us professionals," the 29-year-old from Melbourne told reporters.

"I don't understand why we have to get to the point where we change the Augusta National. We had it for 70 years so why change it?"

Since 2000 when Tiger Woods won his third green jacket, the host course for the Masters has been extended by 460 yards, making it the second-longest course in major championship history at 7,445 yards.

Ogilvy, regarded as having one of the best swings in the game but cracks a mere 260s on the Tour driving statistics, said improvements in club and ball technology had helped the players that least needed assistance.

"We [professionals] are the top one percent of golf and, at the most, it's now percent of that one percent who really benefit. It helps the guys who don't need the help.

"Guys who used to be able to drive 300 yards can now hit it 340. Long term it's not good for the game." Reuters

Streetballers gear up for 3-on-3 tilt

THE 2006 ADIDAS STREETBALL CHALLENGE blasts off July 1 with the Mindanao regional qualifying tournament at the Gaisano Mall in Davao City.

The last-day inhibitional tournament features 32 boys' teams and 32 girls' teams composed of players 16 years old and below.

After the Davao tournament, qualifying tournaments will also be held in Metro Manila on July 9-10, Baguio City on July 16-17, July 22-23, and the Visayas edition in Cebu on July 29-30.

The finals will be on August 12-13, with the boys' teams playing for a slot in the Streetball Championship in Guangzhou, China set on Aug. 20-27, according to Grady Caballo, Adidas Sports marketing manager.

Adidas Streetball Challenge started here in 1996 and quickly gained nationwide popularity. It is the longest running basketball tournament of its kind in the Philippines, featuring a 12-minute running time game with just three players playing without substitutions while a fourth player is on the bench.

The Philippines has done well on the Asian level, winning three championships already. The University of Santo Tomas women's team was the first to accomplish the feat in China in 2000.

Two years later, the University of the Visayas Green Lancers, led by current PBL standout 2E Quitalbon became the first boys team to win the crown, also in China, and were rewarded with a trip to Orlando, Florida, where they met Filipino pioneer Fuzz Mercondo, an Adidas endorser.

Last year, San Beda College won the Asian boys' title and flew to Portland to watch a game between the Portland Trailblazers and the Houston Rockets, and also toured the Adidas Global headquarters, according to the team's Pio Ned Luna will try to defend their title this year.

STILL THE BEST World record holder Michael Phelps of the US rushes to win the men's 400M Individual Medley Finals in a new meet record during the Santa Clara (USA) Invitational Swimming Meet, part of the 2004 USA Swimming Grand Prix Series. —

'46 champs get together

THE 1946 NAVITAS TEAM OF THE UNIVERsity of Santo Tomas is celebrating its championship's diamond anniversary on Sunday, July 3 at the Intramuros Restaurant on Kilometer Zero.

Among the members were Dr. Jose C. Celeste Jr., SPOO Ricardo Pascua, QC Mobile Unit, Judge Felipe Tongco, Valentin M. Palanque, Olympian coach and manager of Kalayaan Basketball, Edward Dee, Domeo Gerona Regalado, Namanwin Campos, 1948 London Olympian, Lt. Col. Julian Mabunay, PA, Evil, sergeant Irving Ferrer PMAF and PSDC president, congressman and governor of Pampanga and mayor of Angeles City Francisco E. Pamintuan and lawyer Atienza Castillejos of Cagdio Hermanos.

Coach was the Dean of Coaches Hermino Silva and undersized star Very Sen. Fr. Benito Cuenca, OP Vice Rector of UST.

BEST OF THE BEST The 20th Bosses-PBC International Region Open Championships 2004 Open Masters winners are lined during the awarding ceremonies. On hand were (from left) PBC and FIQ president Nana Hondroras, Women's Open Masters champion Bang Hyun Jin (Korea), Men's Open Masters Champion Bibsy Nieves (Philippines) and Asian Bowling Federation vice Sheikh Talal Mohd Al Sabah

Renault's Alonso worried about Ferrari

MONTREAL—TODAY'S MOTION THAT PERsonals thrones—on lock up his second consecutive world championship during Formula One's race start starting this night (South America).

Alonso, who has a 22-point lead over Michael Schumacher heading into the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday, isn't buying it.

"I think it will be difficult to increase the lead starting as two races where probably Ferrari are the favorites," Alonso said. "I think we have to do best [here is Rubi-ka], and hopefully finish in front of them, but it will be extremely difficult."

Both drivers had a fairly light day in Friday's two practice sessions. Both made just brief appearances in the morning.

Alonso then ran 71 laps in the afternoon, posting the second-fastest time of the session behind BMW-Sauber test driver Robert Kubica. Schumacher was fifth on the dual after running 37 laps. Qualifying is on Saturday.

It's clear after the first eight rounds this season that the championship will be a battle between Alonso and Schumacher, the seven-time world champion who was involved off the throne last year by the 24-year old Spaniard.

Alonso has five victories this season, including three straight, compared to Schumacher's two wins. He was runner up to Alonso in the past three races.

But things might change after this two-week stretch through Canada and the United States Grand Prix in Indianapolis. Schumacher has a combined 11 victories at the two tracks, while Alonso has none.

In fact, Alonso has failed to finish three of his four races at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, including last year when he made a rare error and hit the wall while leading. The next week, he was one of 14 drivers to protest the Grand Prix of Europe tire safety issue at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Alonso would very much like to avenge those two forgetful weeks by finally breaking through in North America.

"It was a fantastic season, 2005, apart from those two races," he said. "In Canada a mistake, and I didn't finish the race, and at Indianapolis we didn't even start the race.

"It was just a good moment in the championship, but I think this year is completely different. We arrive with high motivation, winning the last three races, and I'll try to finish in the podium in the next two races."

Schumacher will certainly do his best to stand in Alonso's way. A win in Canada would make him the first driver to win the same GP eight times.

Regardless of the outcome, though, Schumacher doesn't believe the next two weeks will make or break his championship hopes.

"If I would be reading into the points that Fernando is leading, I would say until it's mathematically finished that the championship is not finished," Schumacher said.

In fact, Schumacher isn't even convinced that a victory on Sunday would be enough to close significant ground on Alonso. AP

France flexes its muscles

Henry, Vieira shine as French fry ousted Togo, 2-0

COLOGNE, GERMANY— France finally won its game of brinkmanship and a World Cup game for the first time since capturing the title eight years ago.

Teetering on the edge of another embarrassing, first-round elimination from the World Cup, the 1998 champion beat Togo, 2-0, on Friday to advance to the R16 to be a game against Spain.

Patrick Vieira, leading the team in place of suspended captain Zinedine Zidane, scored the first goal on his 30th birthday and set up the second for Thierry Henry in a six-minute span in the second half to help France advance to the second place spot in Group G with four points. Switzerland finished first after beating South Korea 2-0.

"Of course it's stressful when you don't score, and especially when we couldn't afford to concede a goal," France coach Raymond Domenech said. "But once we found out the Swiss had scored a second goal, we were much more calm."

Vieira lifted his game after two of his more performances ever in a French shirt against Switzerland and he hesitates.

"I was really motivated as we think we have a really good team and we don't deserve not to go to the second round," he said.

"You have to work hard and I am quite happy for my performance tonight."

Henry said he was thankful to score his second goal in two games.

"When we got into the deciding game it was bedlam it was a bit worrying because you think their goalkeeper is going to take care of those games," the Arsenal striker said. "He was saving everything and you think he can only get more and more confident. But once we stayed in our calm."

Four years ago, France went out meekly in the first round without scoring a goal, losing to Senegal and Denmark and tying 0-0 with Uruguay.

It was the same picture at this World Cup as Domenech's boys wished chances in a 0-0 draw with Switzerland and then outmuscled the host in a 1-1 tie with South Korea. AP

FRANCE'S Thierry Henry (left) jumps for the ball with Togo's Moustapha Salifou. Henry was one of France's goal scorers. REUTERS

A FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTSTV
Later—Netherlands vs Ivory Coast
11 p.m.—Spain vs Ukraine
Up next—Togo vs Switzerland, tomorrow @ 11 a.m.

Switzerland seals breakthrough advance

BAVARIA, GERMANY—SWITZERLAND reached the second round in its first World Cup for 12 years Friday after a 2-0 victory over South Korea.

Philippe Senderos headed in Hakan Yakin's free kick in the 23rd minute and Alexander Frei added a clinched goal in the 77th to clinch the win and eliminate the 2002 semifinalist.

Switzerland now Group G and will play in the second round against Ukraine on Monday in Cologne.

The Swiss finished with seven points, two more than 1966 champion France, and three more than South Korea. Togo finished last without a point.

"We deserved to win and now we're proud to be in the top 16 in the world," Frei said. "The winning goal was unbelievable. Everything else from here is bonus."

Switzerland advanced to the second round without conceding a goal—the only team to do so.

"We're proud we didn't give up a goal. It's fun playing with this team," Switzerland goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuehler said. "We fought defensively all together."

Lee Chun-soo cut up a third-minute opportunity for South Korea but his cross back across goal eluded Park Ji-sung.

The two sides exchanged chances for the 11 minutes before Switzerland began to gain control. As South Korea's defense became more desperate, Park Chu-young pulled down Tranquillo Barnetta, deserving a yellow card and giving the Swiss a 23rd-minute free kick.

Yakin curled a ball floated data from 35 meters (yards) and Senderos rose over it and headed past goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae.

Both Senderos and defender Ciani Abubakar were left bloody from a clash of heads. Senderos came to the touchline to celebrate his goal with a bandage dressing down his nose from a cut between his eyes while Chri was left with a cut above his right eye.

Switzerland had attempted to close the seconds and returned five minutes later. Senderos later was forced out of the game to the Uru after falling on his right elbow in a clash with Cho Jae-Jin.

In the 77th, Frei rounded the goalkeeper to score. The linesman flagged for offside, but the referee ruled that a Korean defender had played the ball to Frei.

Spectators by thousands lived-clad supporters filling the southwest corner of the stadium who sang and chanted throughout, South Korea controlled most of the possession in the second half.

South Korea created several chances, one of which was a header from a 60th-minute corner by Cho Jae Zuberbuehler had to push over the bar. AP

Ukraine, Spain end qualifiers with wins

BERLIN—HENRY AND HERMAN DO EXACTLY as expected Friday, each winning their matchups to eliminate South Arabia and Tunisia from the World Cup.

Spain won its third straight game at this year's tournament, with a brace of crossbow beating Saudi Arabia, 1-0, in Kaiserslautern to extend its run through the R16. It may be ahead on loss its underachieving rag.

Ukraine, which became the first former Soviet republic to advance to the second round in a World Cup, beat Tunisia, 1-0, in Berlin, thanks Shevchenko scored from the penalty spot in the 79th minute.

Ukraine will play France on Tuesday in Hanover, while Ukraine plays Switzerland in Cologne.

Shevchenko scored his second goal of the tournament after he was knocked down while sneaking between Tunisia goalkeeper Ali Boumnijel and defender Karim Haggui.

Tunisia finished the match with 10 men after Chad Ashton was sent off to the last minute of the first half. Ashton received his second yellow of the match for a sliding tackle on Andriy Yarmolenko.

"It was a good thing we scored when we did," Tymoshchuk said. "We didn't control the game very well in the second half."

Ukrainian coach Oleh Blokhin said several of his players slipped when asked Carlos Marchena pulled out the yellow card. AP

SWISS defender Philippe Senderos (left) heads the ball to score a goal despite having his head bruised South Korean defender Choi Jae-Cheol's face. Senderos and Choi were knocked after the collision. AP

Fan threatens to bomb Swiss embassy after Korea loss

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—A 44-YEAR-OLD South Korean football fan was booked here yesterday after allegedly threatening to bomb the Swiss embassy saying he would blow it up, police said.

The man, identified only by his family name Kim, called the emergency hotline used to report crimes and asked for the number after Switzerland beat South Korea, 2-0, and knocked it out of the World Cup.

"What's the number of the Swiss embassy? I will blow it up," he was quoted as saying when he called the hotline.

Police tracked Kim without physical detention after issuing him with the help of the telephone directory service.

A South Korean nurse has died of a suspected heart attack Saturday while watching the country play a crucial World Cup match against Switzerland at a nursing, pro-Seoul, police said.

The 25-year-old college student, identified only by her family name Kim, collapsed while watching the country's last game vs. Togo was done outdoors in downtown Seoul. Kim was taken immediately to a hospital, but died. AFP, AP

Having won over countrymen, Germans eye victory vs Swedes

BERLIN—GERMANY COULD CO- boast one of its best World Cup starts in one of its worst finishes to one game.

Germany opened with three straight wins for 10 best start in 16 years. A defeat Saturday against Sweden would equal its previous earliest exit, in 1938. It also failed to advance from the second-round group stage in 1974, when the tournament had a different format.

"We have a big hurdle ahead of us, but we have a great goal," coach Jurgen Klinsmann said Friday before the match departure for Munich, where Germany also played the opening match of the tournament and beat Costa Rica, 4-2.

"We are absolutely serious that we'll accomplish this very difficult task. We believe in our strengths and we believe we can beat Sweden," Klinsmann said. "Our expectations of a soccer nation and the World Cup host don't end with the second round or the quarterfinals. We are looking forward to this game and we want to play three more."

When he became Germany coach two years ago, Klinsmann promised to lead the host nation to its fourth World Cup title.

The German admitted his upbeat approach and confidence from the coaches inside he must have picked up in his adopted homeland of the United States, but were skeptical of how realistic the promise was.

While the media doubted and often dismissed him, the fans enjoyed it. They started a love affair with Klinsmann's young, daring, attacking team that had cast away the dour efficiency of his previous predecessor and was fun to watch.

Klinsmann's team goal shows hard by giving Germany its first World Cup start in 36 years and sent it into a post-loss—even the doubters have become believers.

Sweden spent most of Thursday resting and preserving penalties.

Germans has no injury worries and Sweden striker Elanga Ibrahimovic is fit and ready to play after recovering from a left groin injury eight days ago.

But the big question is if Ibrahimovic will start or come on in conditions. AP

CITIZEN: South Korean fans react on the fans a little less violently as their team's defeat, choosing to shed tears instead of tossing threats.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail sr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa

NAT'L BOXING

Tipon whips rival, paces youth meet semifinalists

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

TUBOD, LANAO DEL NORTE—Brother Jeon Tipon, flashing the form that made him the reigning Southeast Asian Games champion, whipped Jonathen Bite of Cotabato City Thursday night to lead the semifinals cast in the National Youth and Primrose Amateur Boxing Olympic Festival at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Tipon, carrying the colors of the Iligan-Bandigan boxing team, scored an RSC third-one knockout (count, 2nd round, 34 seconds) against the Jagdeo Aide in this northern city of Lanao del Norte provincial government headed by Gov. Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo and Rep. Bobby Dimaporo.

Other featherweight (54 kg) semifinalists were Rolly Bahalla of Camiguin province, Geoffrey Castro of the Philippine Army and Rey Rebadomia of Misamis, Bukidnon.

In the light-flyweight (class 165 kg), veteran international Harry Tabanero of the Philippine Army, Albert Pabella of Ozamiz-Panchimac, Wilfredo Bohandino of North Cotabato and Ronel Portero of Cebu, Sorsogon, made it to the semifinals of the event serving as qualifier for future members of the Nineteen Boxing Association of the Philippines running pool.

In the junior division, featherweight (54 kg), Larry Alcaraz became the second loss from the Dinagat City boxing team to enter the semifinals. He scored a RSC in the 2nd round against Allan Manuta of Puerto Princesa City.

Other semifinalists are Antonio Udtohan, Lanry Villanueva and Ronald Viernes. Semifinalists in the junior division of the flyweight (45 kg), are Jeff Hinampuan, John Casanova, Ronel Narbonales and Jose Romanosa.

THE LETHAL Knights chase dancers perform their routine to spice up the opening of this year's NCAA basketball season. (Story on A23)

B. Pacquiao seeks Soto's WBC crown Aug. 12 in Nevada

By Sabrina L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WHILE HE MORE FAMOUS brother is gearing for a big fight next month, Bobby Pacquiao will also plunge into deep training as he challenges World Boxing Council featherweight (undisputed king Humberto "Zorrita" Soto on Aug. 12 at the Mandalay Bay Resort, Casino & Spa in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in the United States.

Pacquiao, who holds the WBC Continental Americas superfeatherweight title, will be moving down one weight division to challenge Soto.

The vastly talented Soto (39-5-2, 23 KOs) had previously boasted flashy stances for the WBC title in 2005.

Soto is on a 26-bout winning streak dating back to 2002. His last defeat was versus Kevin Kelley, whom the youngest Pacquiao recently knocked out.

Nicknamed "The Sniper," Pacquiao (27-3-1, 22 KOs) is coming off an impressive fourth-round knockout win over Bobby Jaen June 10 in New York.

Prior to the victory, he just nailed on a split decision over former world champion Carlos "Baby" Hernandez.

Although Pacquiao will be cheering in ringside for the July 2 bout between his older brother Manny and Oscar Larios, he's expected to roll up his sleeves and start training right after.

Larios breaks champs' ribs; Pacman hies off to GenSan

By Sabrina L. Lagumbay
Contributor

THE COUNTRY'S BOXING ICON BUTTER THE NOTE. MEXICAN OSCAR "GOLDEN" Larios just broke the ribs of the World Boxing Council bantam champion.

Reports coming out of Tokyo indicate that Larios broke the ribs of WBC bantam champion Manuel Gaargaren, prompting Gaargaren's doctor defense to be scheduled.

Larios is expected to phone in today at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Tokyo, Japan, where he has been holed up for the past three weeks training for his blockbuster July 2 bout against local hero Manny Pacquiao at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, made a quick trip to General Santos City yesterday for a brief reconnaissance before he dashes back with Jinkee in what will be their last family meeting before he plunges into serious training.

Pacquiao flew on board a corporate jet owned by brewery and food giant San Miguel Corp., but is expected to be back in Manila today to resume his light workouts at the ABSF gym prior to the big event.

Pacquiao was accompanied by his renowned trainer Freddie Roach, who made sure to be present whenever his prized pupil goes to make sure that nothing goes haywire concerning the conditioning of his million-dollar package.

"It's just a short trip," said Pacquiao's business associate Ben "Pidoy" Isidro. "It seems Manny refuses to rest and still, it's just to short family visit."

Isidro, however, insisted that Roach is in full control of the situation, and fans are advised not to get too worried on the prospect of Pacquiao deviating from his training regimen.

Isidro, who is managing the line-up of the stateside July 2 event, also flew back to his home base in Cebu yesterday, but is due to roll. By back to Manila once Pacquiao returns to the capital.

THUNDERBIRD

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DICKY LIM

SONNY LAGON

Sure blockbuster

By Hernie Rivera

MANO A MANO, THE KEENLY AWAITED mix chosen meeting the irrepressible Manny Pacquiao opens Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum pits Mexico's heavier Oscar Larios co-starring in a blockbuster scheduled to top the theme.

And if you've been following Pacquiao's career, there's really nothing to worry about when he clashes with the unbeaten Larios despite his limited hours at the gym.

Thanks to an early, homegrown management team, the fighters name as they fulfill their offering obligations in this deeply irrational profession. And Manny's lack of urgency is shocking in early or his Hollywood camp sometimes resulted to tardiness gets weeks.

Sometimes months are spent on his chief handler Freddie Roach calls a "thing of the past" as Manny swaps up his heavy work load.

Roach insists his prized ward will knock an early season on the Mexican's ring arsenal—a one offensive move that could result in an early ending of his opponent's career.

There just no more unknown who is convinced that the clashes between two of the world's top superfeatherweights will go the distance.

With a plum November assignment against Erik Morales, a battle-worn the Pacman is—a knock whatever battle plans Larios has laid out for them July 2 does off.

Fine to him, the crowd-pleasing Gensan southpaw vowed to unleash his usual barrages on Larios to retain his bragging rights as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the sport.

Pacquiao-Morales II, a rerolled thriller, entails untold riches, and such a huge payday could not only spur the Gensan pug-ster to get rid of the blocks that could bar him from facing the terrible Mexican in a rubber bout.

The lone impediment standing in the way of Pacquiao acquiring such fortune is the Guadalajara native who has been training like a monster as a focused kid to roll on upset.

Larios, who is bold, tough and owns a right hand capable on impact is unfazed by the odds stacked against him.

The former two-time superbantamweight champion, who is winding up his brawling career, has unshakable confidence he needs, which is "more than enough to pull this one out."

As we await the melee which is expected to be the most vantage-seize in remembrance, demands for tickets has gone "bonkers," causing promoters of Sunday fight fans to go underground else they'll go shirtless, what with the prohibitive cost of ringside seats.

Those days, sports editors are making themselves scarce for lack of the usual "complex" for their millions of readers wanting to see the huge fight live.

Unbelievable!

SF REPORTS TO GMA: Filipino ace jetsetter Tyson Ty paid a courtesy call to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace recently. The 19-year-old Ty is pacing the overall race in the ongoing Asian Formula 3 Series.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronie G. Velarde

Ai-Ai of the storm

Yes to 'Kapamilya,' no to being 'Mrs. Hinahon'

By Rayan Sao-Diego Jr.

AI-AI DE LAS ALAS LOVES 'EM AND LEAVES 'em—laughing.

There they, she is seen weeping bodiers on television, an account of her role on the ABS-CBN soap opera, "Sinong Walang Hiyaang" and her recent breakup with boyfriend Jun Hinahon.

The tears have yet to dry and she's already cracking jokes.

"I'm going crazy," she tells because for entertainment. "Crying one minute and laughing the next. Sometimes, I can do both at the same time."

Talk about multitasking.

"I have no choice. I need to make a living. I need to move on. I can't stay depressed forever. After all that I've been through, (this breakup) is peanuts," she quips.

She cites "incompatibility" as the culprit behind the failure of her five-month relationship with the Indonesian heartthrob.

Apparently, becoming Mrs. Hinahon had no calming effect on the manic-comic.

At to stipulate that the guy has yet to reach "the level of maturity" required by her high-profile career.

So why did she fall for a 23-year-old—a man 20 years her junior?

She replies: "I was traumatized when I ended up with a married man (Miguel Vera) in the past. I told myself: 'Never again!' But the only bachelors my age (41) are pre-divorced with children, so pointless."

True enough, she was recently linked to John Prats, her 23-year-old co-star on "Sinta."

The rumor started when they were seen watching the movie "Cars" together in Eastwood. But she insists that she and her former "Wheelaroon" co-star are just "close" friends.

"We were also on 'Singing ka' (in movie,' Ai-Ai says. "In fairness, he didn't play my

AI-AI A2.3

SMOOSHY Sarna apologizes, though.

'I wasn't fired; I resigned'

By Nini Valera

I WAS NOT FIRED. I RESIGNED."

This was what Smoky Sarna told reporters Entertainment on Thursday in reaction to a previous report that she was dropped from the cast of the fantasy-romance "Captain Barbell" for habitual tardiness.

"I admit that I have been late for taping on several occasions," Smoky said. "But whenever I arrived on the set, I also had to wait for the other stars."

In any case, she said, "I apologize to GMA 7 for causing them problems and costing them money. It is all my fault."

The actress revealed that she lost a six-figure monthly income when she left the show. She was cast in the role of Barbara, mother of Captain Barbell, played by Richard Gutierrez.

She claimed she had legitimate reasons for not showing up on time during tapings of "Barbell," which airs weeknights on GMA 7. She refused to elaborate.

But she said she had earlier requested for taping schedules that would start after 8 a.m. "I told them I had a hard time reporting that early. I'm a night person."

Her manager, Annabelle Rama, told Inquirer also on Thursday that she had not wanted Smoky to be cast in a TV series, anticipating precisely such a problem.

Speaking in Filipino, Rama said she

SMOKY A2.4

SHOCKEY in the role that she gave up, the mother of Captain Barbell

'I wasn't fired; I resigned'

From page A2-1

sexually saked Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for TV Entertainment, to our even remarks Snooky for the series, lamenting the actress was "bound to create problems" for her movie (Gardenver) show.

"In fact," Rama recalled, "one of their signings I was pushed up because Snooky didn't show up."

Snooky lamented her "misstakes."

"I didn't want it to happen," she said meekly. "I was wrong, and I accept the consequences. But I am not such a bad person. I work hard, and I have a good heart."

She claimed she had apologized to her co-star Richard Gomez, who was reportedly mad at her for causing disharmony in the set. It was unfortunate that her nickname "Pagong (Tortoise)"—given by movie producer Lily Monteverde, by way of describing the former child star's cautious outward to have latched on to her.

"It's not something that I'm proud of," Snooky said.

Focus on child singers' innocence and sense of wonder

LAST JUNE 18, GRANDSL 23 "LITTLE Big Star" little singing search held its second Luzonkly finals. In the "Little" division, the finalists were Carmella, Via and Robin. The third finalist, who was also the smallest, got the jurors said, and we agreed with the decision.

In the "Big" division, the finalists were Janeli, Charlene and Kristin. We thought that both Janeli and Kristin were exceptional talents, and wondered how the judges would vote.

Well, their decision was unusual—they decided on a tie...so, both Janeli and Kristin will move on to the next round.

That took place June 17, when the "Little" and "Big" champions from Cebu and Davao flew to Manila to compete with Robert, Janeli and Kristin for the "national" assembly crowns.

The grand finals will be held June 30, be videoed on July 1.

It's heartwarming to see that the search expanded to search for singing talents to include the Visayas and Mindanao, with its separate competitions in Cebu and Davao. Who knows, the big winners this year could come from outside "Imperial" Manila.

On the minus side, despite many resolutions to do the opposite, "Little Big Star" still makes its kiddie singers look and sound like over-adults, theme songs with inappropriately and sometimes even shockingly adult lyrics about love and lust, favor "love" renditions, copy older and more established singing stars, and focus on hokey, melodramatic, over-gestured performances rather than lavishly gow, life and delightful interpretation.

We also wish that the show would stop peppering its young contestants as innocent kids who join the fun so they can live out their families, feast a relative's operation, or repair a leaking roof.

And the kids' parents should similarly stop weighing their children down with "responsibilities" much too heavy for their tender years. It's parents' responsibility to support their kids, not the other way around, so let's stanchy that load to the right, adult shoulders, okay?

We wish our talented child singers well. Their parents should do no less. And

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

we should all remind ourselves that these young singers are children, so we should treat them so.

What does that mean? We shouldn't burden them with ambition, force them to grow up overly soon, allow them the fun and leisure to be children, and encourage the full development and expression of their most beautiful traits—their innocence, and their sense of wonder.

'Seconds from Disaster'

On the National Geographic Channel every Wednesday starting July 5 at 10 p.m., "Seconds from Disaster" documentaries the chain of events leading up to some of the contemporary history's most tragic disasters.

'Master Class'

Philippine Opera Company's season opener with Terrence McNally's "Master Class," about a class conducted by legendary soprano Maria Callas at the Juilliard School of Music during the '70s. In the play, the overcast her life as the opera world's Grand Diame, and reveals glimpses of her private life as billionaire Aristotle Onassis's mistress.

The POC's production is directed by Ira by Rumolo and isabella Sirdra Calalang, Ana Feleo, Glen Gardun, Jay Glodoves, Kaela Gutierrez, Cinjay Javier, Jojo Mallverol and Michael Williams. Performances run from July 13 to 22 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza. Call 893-8097.

Season Pass

The biggest names in sports and the most exciting sporting events are now available on SkyCable Season Pass. It offers three pay-per-view packages: all for 2006 FIFA World Cup games. The Boxing Season Pass to witness the Pacquiao vs. Jarkin "Manny vs Marco" bout, and World Wrestling Entertainment tournaments. Call 421-0000.

Tata Fransisco

Songwriter, arranger, jingle maker and musical director Tata Fransisco has come up with his very own album. The self-titled CD showcases both old and new songs—interpreted the way the composer himself envisioned them to be. "There's Nothing Left Inside," "Say Forever" (a duet with Zia Zia Padilla), "Hanggang Dito," "Hindu Ito," "Hindi Maglalaho," "Tadhana" (with Regine Velasquez), "Kahanglaho Ito (with Jaya)," "Buena Mano" etc.

I Wanna Be Happy'

After well-received comedy movies like "Bridal Shower" and "Liberated," Judie Filter is playing it light and lively again with its July attraction, Joey Reyes' "I Wanna Be Happy."

This time around, however, the film features not loveable ladies, but not a "gold mi" couple played by "topline" icons Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia.

Two months before they mark their 50th wedding anniversary, they suddenly split up! Of course, this rocks their family to its very foundations.

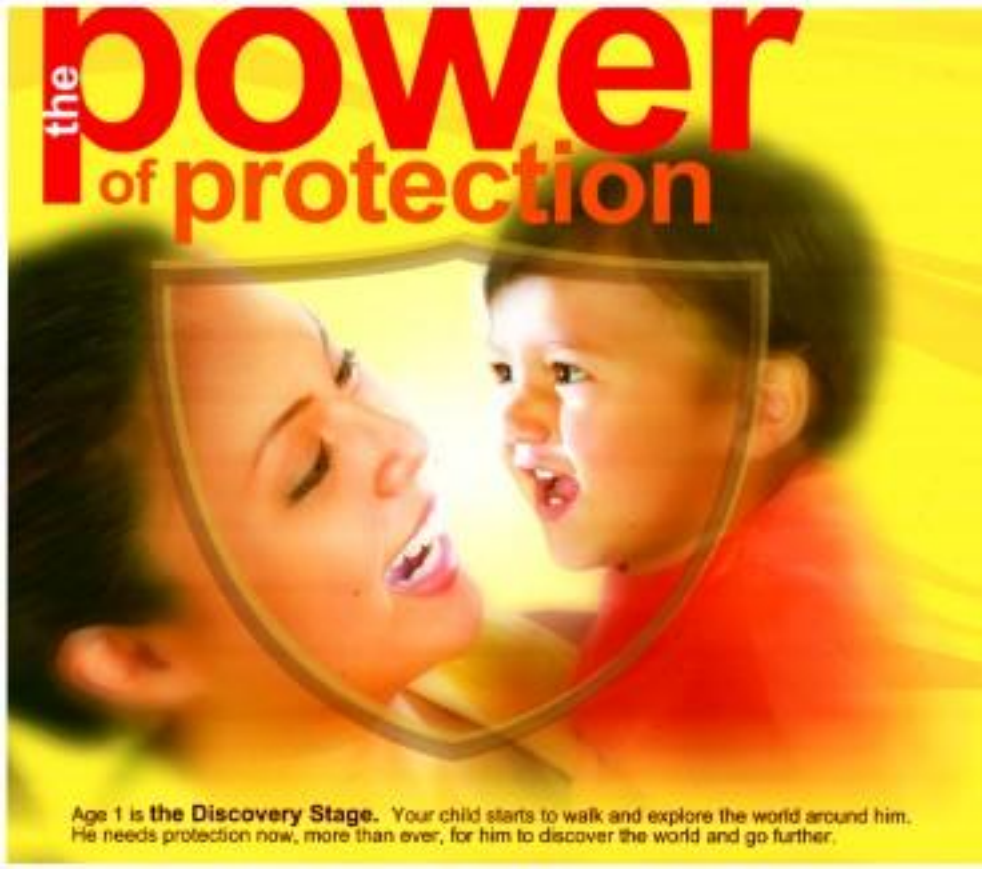
Their children bear the brunt of this "belated and retroactive" trauma: Cherry Pie Picache plays a housewife caught in an unhappy marriage; Joey Marquez is a highly-strung widower; and Diana Zubiri is a retail who eschews marriage and prefers to live in with her lover.

Alfred Vargas, Christian Vasquez and Marlon Delgado also star, and Beatrix Stevens is cast as Garcia's "threesome twin" after his wife leaves him high and dry.

After the children come the grandchildren, and they're at home with, too—Jason Abalos, Nini Ignacio, Michelle Madrigal and Alwin Uytingco unexpectedly get a crash course in love and fidelity when their grandparents' "solid" marriage abruptly self-destructs.

—Not to worry, though—romance deserves a second chance, even after 50 years, and love, like hope, springs eternal!

the power of protection



Age 1 is **the Discovery Stage.** Your child starts to walk and explore the world around him. He needs protection now, more than ever, for him to discover the world and go further.

Molly and Bianca King on the set of "Sugar"

And now, mobile phone movies

The audience for new film media is growing, says award-winning filmmaker Mark Meily

By Rayant San Diego Jr.

RAFAEL Reed stars in the phone movie

A VIDEO-BEGGING FILMmaker Mark Meily has set up a production company called Spark Films, which specializes in making short films for cellular phones.

It's the wave of the future, Meily says. "With the advent of 3G technology has come a demand for content made specifically for mobile phones."

As of now, only portions of TV shows can be downloaded on phones, Meily points out, "like three-minute comedy skits from [the GMA 7 gag show] 'Bubble Gang'."

He says Spark makes "original content." The company is whipping up three- to five-minute movies that boast "high-quality production values."

Meily says he has teamed up with service providers Globe and Smart, as well as cellphone manufacturer Samsung.

For Spark's maiden offering, Meily has tapped ABS-CBN star Rafael Rosell and GMA 7 talent Bianca King to uphold the romance-comedy "Sugar."

"I wrote and directed it, based on a story by Chris Martinez ('Bridal Shower,' 'Filipino Open')," Meily says.

"Sugar" tells the story of sweethearts (Rosell and King) who've reached a plateau in their relationship. "The girl decides to spice things up by assuming a secret identity and conducting a text-message affair with her boyfriend. The problem is, the guy falls for the new girl and they decide to fill (symbol or more, in Hungarian)."

"Sugar," according to Meily, is a 15-minute short film divided into three five-minute "mini-episodes."

"That's the term used to describe each episode of a mobile short film," Meily explains. "The audience for new media is growing. There's DVD, cable TV, music videos and in-flight entertainment. Apart from cellphone movies, there are also e-movies, which can be downloaded to your personal computer from the Internet."

Ai: Most bachelors my age are gay, divorced or priests

Viewpage A2-1

Ai-Ai and kids, clockwise from top: Sarasito, Bella and Miguito

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ENTERTAINMENT

Palace approves P25-M fund for Film Council co-prods

By Marinel R. Cruz

MALACAÑANG RECENTLY approved the P25-million Film Fund for movie producers in a bid to jump-start the ailing film industry, the Film Development Council of the Philippines announced on Friday.

The Council received notice of the approval from the Department of Budget early this month, according to FDCP chief Salvador "Sandy" Acimeza.

"We will use the [money] to invest in co-production ventures," Acimeza told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview. "A maximum of P5 million will be used per project—or 40 percent of the total project cost, whichever is lower."

Selection committee

National Artist Ino Film Eddie Romero would head the committee in charge of selecting which movie outfits FDCP would work with, Acimeza confirmed in an earlier report.

"But we will start disbursing the [cash] only after two-thirds of the project has been finished," Acimeza said. "The disbursement shall be on a staggered basis. The producer will receive the last [chunk] after the film print is finished."

Payment or recovery of FDFC's investment would come from the proceeds of the project, he added. "That is why we are making sure the producers will finish the film."

Previously for this purpose, Acimeza said, the Council would form a monitoring committee to be headed by Bigas Inodoro of Viviano Productions.

Acimeza explained that before FDCP could agree on a co-production, it should first approve the script, cast and director, and ensure the film is commercially viable. The track record of the movie outfit interested in the funding would also be weighed, he said.

"FDCP will give priority to entrepreneur who have not produced a 35-mm film for the last 12 months. Ten of the most active producers have better scripts, we will also consider them," Acimeza said. "Digital films can also qualify for assistance, as long as they are filmed in HD [high definition] cameras equipment and would later be blown up to 35 mm."

As co-producer, FDCP would get 20 percent from the total theatrical proceeds of the film, he said. Payment of the Council's investment would also come from ancillary rights (TV, cable, home video rights), which would be assigned to FDCP for six years.

"If the proceeds are valued more than our investment, the excess will be given back to the producer," said Acimeza. "All we want is a return of investment. The producer can buy us out of the co-prod deal anytime."

Business deal

He added: "While this is really not a commercial transaction, it has the rigidity of a commercial deal." This means that the producer should assure the Council that the production will not spend more than its allotted budget and that the movie will be finished within the agreed period.

The Council would start shooting the first three projects within the next two months, said the FDCP chief, and the producers should start shooting within six weeks, at the latest, upon approval of the funding.

President Macapagal-Arroyo facilitated approval of the fund, Acimeza said. "It's an expression of her support for the industry that we got it sooner than expected."

WINNERS. From left, QTAS 7 reporter Jay Tarac (accepting posthumous award for his father Joe), network president and CEO Felipi L. Gozon, anchorperson Kristel Cibulo and reporter/program host Howie Severino.

Rotary's TV Station of the Year

GMA NETWORK was named Television Station of the Year by the Rotary Club of Manila during the 2005 Journalism Awards Night at the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati, on Thursday.

The network was cited for its "outstanding body of work in 2005 covering straight news reporting, investigative journalism as well as public affairs programs and special coverage, all of which have contributed to the public's appreciation and understanding of national and world events."

Balanced

"The judges felt that GMA-7's news coverage, investigative work and public affairs really represent balanced reporting and in-depth coverage—which is public service," said Tom Rongen, award's chair.

For the past three years, there had been no recipient of the Station of the Year award.

"The result not been come as a surprise and let me say we greatly value this," said Felipi L. Gozon, network chair, president and CEO, who received the trophy.

ROTARY'S A31-1

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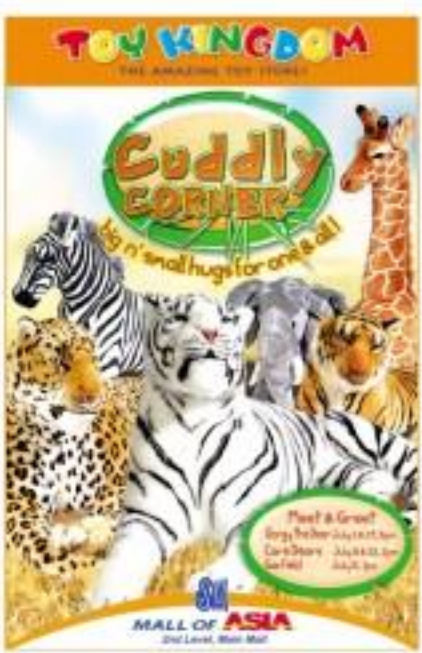

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6 THE NUN
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7 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
8 WHORE
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
9 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
5 VICTORY
10 CARS
GARFIELD 2

ERMITA

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 GARFIELD 2
WHORE
6 THE NUN
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
7 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
LAKE HOUSE

METRO EAST

1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
5 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 SCARY MOVIE 4
8 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
7 GARFIELD 2
4 CARS
GARFIELD 2
8 THE NUN

NOVALICHES

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5 SCARY MOVIE 4

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1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
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1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH | LAKE HOUSE
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4 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
4 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 CHAOS
6 THE INSIDE MAN

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1 CARS
2 CARS
2 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
3 PACQUIAO THE MOVIE
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News on TV

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eskwamates

I never fail to catch the news on television, and I clean your room on the updating some of those responsible on-screen characters TV.

Some of my observations and a few suggestions:

1) Our local newscasts are very long.

2) The banners are labor-intensive. To quote Anabelle Rama in an ad: "Sosyalin ang ulo ko sayo?"

3) In an attempt to have more viewers, they capitalize on tsismis reporting of entertainment personalities. For example:

- Angel Locsin at Oyo Boy, nasaya sa bayang tagaytay pero sila?
- "May Tsismis ngayon sa Pilipinas ng mga sikat na artista."
- "Finnoise Pinoy, Nobody."

Seriously?

4) No attribution. Closely knowing.

5) A penchant for captions and catchphrases. I have been watching DZRH newscasts for years, and have never heard anything like, "Sigbalitiki nam nam sa mundo."

Onomatopoeia???

Or, "Kumusta n'yo sa pagbabalik ng kalsadahan." Off the quick!

Or, "Sembreong to-tot Ang." Let the viewers write this.

6) Wasted Man sports news.

On the brighter side, newscasts now include tips, how-tos, and diet and exercise that is fresh to watch and useful. Like, where to shop for inexpensive tabod napolog.

and what to do to cure of a flat, an earthquake, and a volcano eruption.

We have positive developments, more pesos!

Rotary's TV . . .

From page A3-1

Two of the network's news and public affairs personalities were honored by the Rotary Club of Manila Intramuros. Mr. Amabel Clarin as Broadcaster Journalist of the Year for TV and Rowena Severino as Investigative Journalist of the Year for TV.

Clarin was cited "particularly for his outstanding coverage of breaking events in 2005, such as the Valentine's Day bombing, and developments in the Hello Garci controversy."

Severino was awarded "for outstanding, in-depth investigative reporting of the activities behind the news, which help viewers gain a better appreciation of the people and circumstances behind the stories."

The judges found "his body of work in 2005, including reportage on out-of-school youth, the sad state of Filipino children in detention and the Manila Film Center tragedy [as] outstanding examples of his craft."

Rivermaya's hits collection a must-have

RIVERMAYA "GREATEST HITS 2006—The Ultimate Collection" is a must-have. The latest issues written by front man Rico Blanco is listed on the point and answers: "The compilation you hold in your hands contains the chartbusters we consider our best work so far. These are the songs I hold dearest to my heart."

Three songs are: "Faithle," "Ulanman, Imwahin," "Umiwing sa Dilim," "Bulusang," "Ang na Sa Iilo Buhay" "Sumisid Sa Umaga," "I Love to Hate," "241," "Makasama Ka," "Kay," "Tanduay," "Ipis Ipis," "Faithless," "Awitan ata" and "Kahiling Pusit (Hapunan)."

Granted, several of these songs go back to the time of Rombon when he was still with the group. Rivermaya lovalists need only this enumeration of titles: the newly-turned on shoulder's be remembered with another's perception.

Spin City

More winners

Two other MTV winners from Vivo Records were Isabelle Ann Go, favorite Female Artist, and Mark Bautista, favorite Female Artist. "I Need You," originally by Gab d, and the first single out of Mark's second album "Dream On." The video directed by Eli San Pedro featured actress Iza Calzado.

Go also won Favorite Mellow Video for "From the Start."

MTV is the music video channel of ABS-CBN.

PLEASANT surprise

On his own

TIM'S Studios—songwriter, arranger, musical director and jingle maker—is now a singer as well. The composer of such hits as Gary V's "Sana Ol" and Randy Santiago's "Ulugo Magbabago" recently released his very own self-titled album.

He composed, arranged and produced every one of the 11 tracks, including duets with Tanasa Padilla, Regine Velasquez and Jaya.

Pleasant surprise

A YEAR (musical surprise is Christian Bautista's latest album, "Completely." Track No. 1, "Everything You Do," reminds the listener that the young fan's not stop quite well indeed. But our reunion in the seat, three tracks—although very likely candidates as hard hits, just like the first—as, "Yeah, yeah, yeah (true ...)"

And then comes "She Could Be," and are we pulled back to attention. But he saved to track No. 7, "After You," and No. 8, "Please Don't Go." At this point we are listening with freshly perked ears ...ready to wind down again through the last Four tracks.

But hey, these three numbers establish Christian as a recording artist and performer who's willing to take risks. And guess what, he never took eyes and ears off his "Please Don't Go." "She Could Be" is credited to A. Soriano, Andrew Fuentes and Christopher Rojas. Mark Spies and Steven Stanzi wrote the music and lyrics to "After You."

RIVERMAYA

"HSM School Musical"

'High School Musical' on Disney Channel

THE FIRSTBORN, MUSICAL ABOUT THE sweet, genuine-ice comes to Asia via Disney Channel today at 7:30 p.m.

"High School Musical," the Disney Channel original movie about kids meeting friends from the could to perform in the high school stage musical, captures those teasers in dazzling, show-stopping numbers—amidst the turmoil of teen romance.

The musical tells the story of stage star Troy (Zac Efron) and brainy Gabriella Montez (Vanessa Hudgens), who both have a secret passion for performing on stage. When the opportunity comes for a stage musical, they try to get a shot for the lead roles, much to the dismay of siblings Sharpay (Ashley Tisdale of "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody") and Ryan (Lucas Grabeel).

Zac and Gabriella's sudden duets ahead of theatrical rivalries add up to the dingin of Zac's basketball teammates who are preparing for a championship game, and Gabriella's fellow Chemistry Club members who are cramming for the upcoming quiz bee.

Kid Fit

'Garageplay' to Batman

LEARN the basics of hand navigation in "Garageplay!" hosts Paulo Solar and Nikolai Molino bring the action in "Beat O' Bronces," the 3rd Batman Chronotraining Challenge. Thirteen teams showcase their crimestopping skills as they navigate through the 2000-year old cranes like engineering marvels. The show hosts also ride Batman's trademark wooden scooters. The trip airs on Studio 23today at 1:30 p.m.

Superstars for kids

MY DESIRING of love, hope and inspiration awaits children of the Make-A-Wish foundation with "Fun Night," a "Superman Returns" fund-raising movie event mounted by design company Effion Hwang, to celebrate its first anniversary. The special screening is set on June 20 at Cinema 4 of the Stadwell Power Plaza Mall, Bonifacio Global City with birthday snack packs.

"SUPERMAN"

Engelbert Humperdinck at Big Dome on Tuesday

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK, ONE OF THE most acclaimed male performers of the '60s, returns to Manila to live in concert on Tuesday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Billed as "The Statesman of Rock, Engelbert Live in Manila" that concert night could revive Dean Vliet Connor's and Rowena Bolaga's bank the successful artist known for the classic hits "Release Me," "Quando, Quando, Quando," "The Way It Used To Be," "Spinning In The Night," "After The Loving," "Ensure The Right Away," "Spanish Eyes," "There Goes My Everything" and "Am I That Easy To Forget."

Tickets are at P8,000, P5,000, P3,000, P2,500 and P500. Call 911-5555.

Rare rocks

Rare Engelbert pays tribute to the undeniable soul of rock, in an afternoon of music and fashion on July 7, 5 p.m., at the open air park of SM City North Edsa.

All celebrated stars in the concert but will serve as backdrop for the runway show featuring the clothes shop's celebrity endorsers Dimples Romana, LJ Reyes, Rica Rivera, Gladys de Castro and Dina Mora.

Twins

The hit "Tell Me" Robin Duran Hits album and tour goes to Robinsons Angeles today at 5 p.m.

Twins will dance to "Hey Oh Cappuccino" and other hits from the album released by Universal Records.

An autograph signing session follows the free show.

Today

Cascades 2006 World Tour at Manila Hotel

Erik Santos at Metropolitan

Ayan Sharmaine at KITV Bar

Eskinol at Old City Clerk

Tomorrow

Jojo A All the Way and Glenne A Break at KITV Bar

Solenge of Soul and Shake at Tavern on the Square

Elli and Steel at Mark's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

Barney Eliot at Heroes Gastro Bar

June 27

Jojo A All the Way and Glenne A Break at KITV Bar

Jedhonie and Sibil at Tavern on the Square

Engelbert Humperdinck at the monarch, Coliseum

Anything and Go Soaked Out Band at Mark's Bar

SLSM image models

ENGELBERT Humperdinck

KAPHAZEE

June 28

Kamikazee at University of Mindanao

Jojo A All the Way and Glenne A Break at KITV Bar

RJ at University Solar Serendipity Lounge

The Dreggars at Libandon Band at Tavern on the Square

Wednesday Jazz festival at Mark's Bar with Richard Merk, Eddie Battadig and Judith Hosel

Cascades 2006 World Tour at the Rund Rock Cafe Makati

June 29

Jojo A All the Way and Glenne A Break at KITV Bar

Jedhonie and MYMP at Tavern on the Square

Serenade live at Mark's Bar

June 30

RJ's Friends and Monsterados at KITV Bar

Go Girls album launch at Room Dance Bar

Pol Session at Tavern on the Square

Cascades 2006 World Tour in Cagayan de Oro City

SITV Live Sessions at Café Lupa featuring Orange and Lemons

Solaire at SM North Edsa

July 1

Cascades 2006 World Tour in Cagayan de Oro City

July 2

Erik Santos at SM Fairview

July 7

Manhattan Transfer at the Araneta Coliseum with Richard Merk

Backroom Musical Concert with Erik Santos, Francine Ut, Kim Flores, K and the Rosers and Stella Mae Quinto in Marbel City

July 8

Backroom Musical Concert with Erik Santos, Francine Ut, Kim Flores, K and the Rosers and Stella Mae Quinto in Marbel City

July 9

Erik Santos at SM Batangas

July 15

Erik Santos and Sharyn Regis at Sentral Center, Zamboanga City

July 16

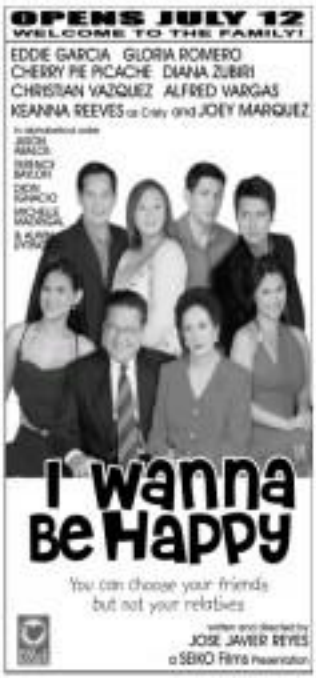
Erik Santos at Pavilion Mall

July 23

Erik Santos at SM Manilao

July 30

Erik Santos at SM Clark



Sex therapy sans tiptoeing

By Oliver M. Polumbo-S
Contributor

LIAM NEESON as Dr. Alfred Kinsey

THE MOVIE "KINSEY" DOESN'T MINCE words or wimp on sexual imagery. It's a compelling biopic that shines on different facets of the controversial sex researcher Alfred Kinsey's struggle. Alfred has troubled life. The film pokes and prods, and comes up with enlightening conclusions on the ever-changing attitudes concerning sexual behavior. It excels in its relevance while providing insightful clinical education. The biology-professor's findings, aptly enough, don't seem to be a separate entity from his own personal growth. (Yes, it seems he mostly practiced what he preached.)

Review

"Kinsey" is unusually riveting, which makes the experience especially important and very much worth it. Author Bill Condon has handled sensuality and obscenity with expertise before in "Gods and Monsters," and it's no surprise that he credibly deconstructs a forward-thinking figure to the non-sore again. Dr. Kinsey (Liam Neeson) is a cute, driven individual who achieved a popular breakthrough. In "Sexual Behavior in the human male," in 1948. We see his development from a geek-ridden zero to a liberated pioneer, his thirst for truth enabled with personal and sexual milestones (though decades of non-conformity. His intellectual progression is shared by his wife Zana (Laura Linney) and trusted researchers (Chris O'Donnell, Peter Sarsgaard, Timothy Hutton).

Intimate details

The film unabashedly tackles the intimate details of its characters' sexual histories. Topics that surely, if ever, get discussed in school or at home are observed minus the awkward tiptoeing. The intricacies of sex and the behavior relating to it—from feelings of inadequacy to secret desires, from homosexuality to extra-marital affairs—get a share of the spotlight, being unreservedly handled in Kinsey's firsthand experiences.

Harry Potter, Captain Hook & the queen

LONDON—HARRY POTTER AND CAPTAIN Hook will be hot on the trail of the queen's stolen handbag today at one of the most surreal garden parties ever staged at Buckingham Palace.

Cheer Factor

To celebrate her 80th birthday, Britain's Queen Elizabeth has invited 1,000 children to her London residence for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party with children's characters Winnie the Pooh and Paddington Bear joining forces with Thomas the Tank Engine.

Reuters

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1 THE RUN	2 SCARY MOVIE 4	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 PROXIMO				
G4	1 GARFIELD 2	2 THE LAKE HOUSE	3					
	4 KINSEY	5 CARS	6 SCARY MOVIE 4	7 THE SECRET OF THE CODE				
GB1	1 THE LAKE HOUSE		2 SCARY MOVIE 4					
GB3	1	THE LAKE HOUSE	2	SCARY MOVIE 4				
	3 KINSEY		4		5 CARS			
ATC	1	SCARY MOVIE 4	2 CARS					
	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4 THE RUN	5 PROXIMO					
ACC	1 SCARY MOVIE 4	2 PROXIMO	3 HILLS HAVE EYES	4				
M2	1 SCARY MOVIE 4		2 THE RUN					
	3		4 PROXIMO	5 THE LAKE HOUSE				

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Hobby Interactive Program, June 24 & 25, 2005	Sexy Summer Pleasures 2005, June 10 to July 10, 2005

GB 3 Camera Photo Exhibit by Filipinos Heritage at Ayala Museum, June 23 to July 3, 2005

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Ayala Museum: From Dogora to Devotion: Icons & Symbols in Philippine Religious Art, Opens June 30, 2005. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 28 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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Liam Neeson · Laura Linney

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June 16 to 18 Market! Market!

June 23 to 25 Alabang Town Center

Robin & Regine — confirmed!

A REPORT THAT FIRST CAME OUT IN this section has been confirmed by GMA Films president Annette Gozon-Abrogar.

Robin Padilla has signed up with the Kapuso's film arm, and his first project is a romantic-comedy with Regine Velasquez.

"It's a love story-switched '101 Ako 'Yon,' after the old Ruth Ledesma song, but it's going to be age appropriate," Abrogar told Inquirer Entertainment.

Abrogar also confirmed that Megastar Sharon Cuneta is meeting with GMA Films for an upcoming project.

"We are thinking of casting her with one of our talents, like Richard Gutierrez. She is planning to co-produce the film with us," Abrogar said.

Abrogar likewise revealed that "Mano Po Movie" will be top-billed by TV Darna Angel Locsin.

In the works

OTHER movie projects in the works are the first pairing of Regine Velasquez and Bong Saville and/or the revision of Sharon Cuneta and Revilla for Viva Productions.

Revilla told the press recently that he is also mulling a project with fellow Senator Jinggoy Estrada.

His statement prompted a movie reporter to gasp: "Pheeew, no!"

Touché

ON the small screen, ABS-CBN is cooking up a new soap with Christine Jacavier and Pinky Amador as lead stars.

Whose does this leave Pinky's present partner on "Sa Piling Mo," Judy-Ann Santos?

Judey herself told Inquirer that her next TV project, either a sitcom or a soap, would be with real-life beau Ryan Agoncillo.

Tit for tat.

Waiting game

SPEAKING of Pinky... he has been very vocal about his wish to woo "Sa Piling Mo" co-star Rica Peralejo. In fact, he has told everyone (including the press and Rica's ex, Bernard Palanca) about it.

According to reporters, however, Pinky has yet to begin his wah.

Power!

CENSORS, on your heart ass.

A powerful TV executive was not pleased when sarcastic comments of network stars were prior to a glossy mag.

Before the issue was released to the market, the exec ordered the offending sentences covered—as in, each copy had to be pasted with blank pieces of paper.

Funny thing was, the "removable" pages could still be discerned in front of any light.

TKO'd movie

IS it true that the punch of "Pacquiao the Movie" was hardly felt at the tills? It reportedly made only P500,000 as of 3 p.m. on its opening day.

Has business picked up?

Totally domesticated

AZA Muhlach on himself today: "I'm happy ever when I'm with my wife, watching out kids Andrew and Amelia grow up. There are mornings when I find myself just waking at my children as they run around. When I'm away from my family for even just a day, I call them constantly, to ask what they're doing."

This is probably why he is Globe's newest celebrity endorser. Commercial check-out time life?

Fun in the rain

ACTRESS Cherie Gil told friends Jaclyn Jose and Bembol Roco her experience during her birthday (June 21) trip to Boracay Island: "It was raining there, but I had fun."

After that moment, what's a rainshower?

Cherie can't stay away from the sea, it seems. Her latest movie is "Exmud," about another famous island. This one in Romblon.

Packs a wallop

LISBON—Actress Mia Farrow admits the mildly paused horror film "The Omen" is no art house masterpiece but defends it as devilish fun that draws a good crowd.

"I never expected that this would be some high horse cinema," Farrow, who plays a nanny from hell in the remake of the 1976 son-of-Satan chiller, told reporters. "You keep on that people are enjoying it, it packs a wallop."

Critics have slammed "The Omen"—the New York Times called it "hesitantly gloomy and worst-logged"—but the movie has done well at the box office, pocking the box-office opening on a Sunday in its 10 launch this month.

Reuters

Pay up, Seal

LONDON—British pop star Seal will have to pay his former manager commissions of at least 500,000 pounds on earnings from his first two albums following a ruling in London's High Court on Thursday.

Justice Charles Gray ruled the Grammy award-winning singer ("Kiss From a Rose," "Crazy") was contractually obliged to pay the commission—some 20 years after they stopped working together.

The judge backed a claim by John Waelbroeck, who was Seal's manager until 1995.

Reuters

Kylie's full stop

MELBOURNE—Pop star Kylie Minogue will complete the world tour she called off a year ago after being diagnosed with breast cancer with a series of concerts in Australia later this year, her Australian tour manager said Thursday.

The shock diagnosis interrupted the Australian-born star's biggest global tour, and her return to the stage after undergoing cancer treatment has been highly anticipated in her home country and her longtime base in London.

AP

No drugs

NEW YORK—Anne Hathaway, last seen in "Brokeback Mountain" and starring with Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada," on how she stays out of trouble: "I don't drink, I don't do drugs. I was raised in a solidly upper-middle class family who had really strong values."

AP

RUSHES

ASA MUHLACH

ANNE HATHAWAY

ENTERTAINMENT

First look at 'Pirates' sequel ... and guess what? Woody Allen fancies Scarlett Johansson

Johnny Depp is 'Pirate'

LOS ANGELES—"Welcome to the first-ever screening of 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest,'" announced blockbuster producer Jerry Bruckheimer late Wednesday evening inside a theater packed with media folks at a multiplex in Century City.

Amid cheers, the opening credits of the much-anticipated sequel to the first "Pirates" movie rolled on the big screen. We don't want to spoil the fun for "Pirates" fans so we'll just say that among the things to watch for are 1) Johnny Depp as a "bromosexual dark hahdah", 2) a twist in the relationship between the character played by Johnny, Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom, and 3) a spectacular swordfight on a rolling water mill.

Last Thursday, we interviewed the cast led by Johnny, one of our all-time favorite subjects. We asked the actor for his comment on Britt's reply on the question, "Who is a better kisser, Johnny or Orlando?" Abergain.

Imagine Woody ...

Can you imagine Woody Allen, one of the greatest wits of our time, watching reruns of "Baywatch"?

Read on to find out why New York's famous comic intellectual keeps the channel on Pamela Anderson's TV series and how he confidently set sixty-year-old Scarlett Johansson as his new film muse. Why, he made his newest film, "Scoop," just for the pleasure of working with Scarlett again! Lucky girl. When we across-locked star of "Match Point," Scarlett flew to London as a hasty replacement ... and Woody was smitten. Only on the set, said the comedy's auteur, who is married to Soon-Yi and dotes on their two adopted daughters.

The tall hunk of tanning this year as I was last year? Woody reminded the reporters. As in that first interview, the writer-director of such classics as "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan" asked the journalist to speak louder. "Scoop," a comedy about an American socialite journalist visiting London who happens to stumble upon the scoop of a lifetime, also features Hugh Jackman and Ian McShane, a newsman who can't pass up a scoop even if he is already dead.

In this film, you experience limbo as a ship that goes on a voyage that never stops. Do you believe in limbo?

I don't believe it (laughter). Originally my idea was that a very dedicated journalist dies and goes to heaven. He finds out that heaven is very casual. He comes back to earth and tries to tell the story to a newspaper. That story has many problems and I couldn't write it properly no matter what I did. I couldn't get a full script out of it. So then I thought, what if the dedicated journalist found out about a crime that was committed and he doesn't want the crime to go unpunished? He comes back. This is pure fiction because my view of life as you know from previous interviews is much blunter than that. I don't believe we are in a boat anymore. I think nothing happens at all.

What about death? What's your perception of it?

I don't want to depress you all but I see it as a continuation of no-existence and the termination of consciousness for eternity. You will just vanish, decompose or be cremated, whatever your choice is. That will be the end of it. The phenomenon known as the gave the name of a reporter in silver-haired, well-tanned your exist again anywhere (laughter).

So you do not believe in reincarnation?

I don't believe in reincarnation because on I have said, death is a total termination. I think of the universe, the whole cosmos will vanish and there will be nothing. Life is a totally meaningless, bleak and painful experience. The trick is to figure out how to live and how to make moral choices so you can tell yourself a bit of good.

How you make the right moral choices?

I try but I don't always. It is hard to make these moral choices. I can say that, in my lifetime, I have made decent choices. I am not a fascist or a criminal, and I try to come down on the side of liberal democracy. I have tried to be decent in my life but you can't be perfect. You make some screwups. Everybody does. It's tough because you have to make them with the knowledge that there is no reward for making them. And I have no digression you get so you are more and clear here (laughter).

How would you like to be remembered as an ordinary mortal and as a filmmaker?

I am not a big legacy person for the reason that just I gave you. (laughter). To me, when I die, I don't care what you guys do (laughter). You can take my films and dump them in the ocean. You can write that I was non-existent, the worst person in the world or the best person. It doesn't matter to me at all because all the people in the world standing over Shakespeare's grave and singing his praises just don't mean a thing. Once I die, if there is a couple of bucks to be made for my kids in my nephews, great. Films you see these politicians quote everyone says, but what about your legacy? Who cares? When I was younger, I started giving copies of my films to the Museum of Modern Art. I gave about 15 films to the museum and then I thought, what am I doing? Do I really care? And that was the end of it. I just want to be buried on Madison Avenue and 81st. Run me, no parties, and no remembrances. Just let destiny rule and move on.

But you have glimpse of posterity. You love basketball, your kids, you love doing movies.

They are distractions. I do a movie every single year to distract myself (laughter). Because when I go home, I can work on, let's say, how Scarlett Johansson and Hugh Jackman meet each other in the movie. That takes more or less hours of thinking. But if I don't have that problem to solve—there I am thinking, get I am 70 years old, how long can I go on? That's when's gonna happen to me, if I don't have a distraction, one day I just won't wake up in the morning or I'll be waiting on the street and fall dead. The kids that I have no school with are now developing dead left and right around me. So what I need is distraction. I love sports. I practiced the clarinet like it was really important to practice. Or I think about getting the script, getting the money and casting. Colin Farrell and Ewan McGregor in my next movie.

In this movie, did you consider writing your character out as a complete so did you think of having someone play your musician character?

In this case, I didn't. Usually I do but I had just done "Match Point" with Scarlett. We became very friendly and I thought, "My God, this girl is so funny." I wanted to do a movie with her where I could be funny and she could be funny too. She is so gifted. So when I wrote the script, I wrote myself into it. I wanted to indulge myself and have the treat of playing with Scarlett. I never knew anything about Scarlett until she came into my last movie, "Match Point." Like everybody else on the set, I was overwhelmed by her.

You said you and Scarlett became very good friends. How does a person know that you consider him a good friend?

With Scarlett, we are very friendly on the set. I have never gone to lunch or dinner with her. We don't e-mail each other. We don't call each other (laughter). But we are very friendly with each other. The minute we meet on the set, we're full of jokes, talk and affection. We have a good time together. That was the only reason I did "Scoop." We wanted to do something together where I could show the world that she is amazing, that she is not just sexy and dramatic. Scarlett always impresses. Every time I say something funny, she says something funnier. Recently I have a great deal of respect for that. But you can see on the set that we are always breaking up or making each other. I don't usually do that with cast members, I am usually very reserved. But not with her. I have a good time with her but it does not extend beyond the set. We don't go out socially.

Going back to Colin and Ewan, what is the film that you will be doing with them?

I don't have a title yet but it will be a serious film like "Match Point." It will also be set in England. Colin and Ewan are the main stars.

What do you like about Colin and Ewan?

I have never met Ewan. I only know his work. But I think it is wonderful. I met Colin for 45 seconds. He came in very briefly but I also know his work.

NEXT LOOK: A4.2

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He romanced Davis, Hayworth & Crawfo

LOS ANGELES... VINCENT SUBRAMAN, WHO DIRECTED... AND romanced—Bette Davis, Rita Hayworth and Joan Crawford during his heyday as a leading Hollywood filmmaker in the 1940s and '50s, died last weekend of natural causes. He would have been 100 on July 16.

He died at the Motion Picture and Television Hospital was announced Monday by his son, Eric Sherman.

"Time was in good condition until two months ago," said actress Frenchie Voh, his companion for the last nine years. "In January he had appeared on a documentary about Humphrey Bogart, and he told a lot of good stories. He was the last of the gentlemen, a real 'modern gentleman.'"

"He was a joy to work with," said Ann Sutherland, who appeared opposite Errol Flynn in "The Adventures of Don Juan." "I was thrilled at how he was able to have the Errol Flynn was a quite re- [illegible] director. That was a wonderful thrill— one about him. That's why he had so many lady friends."

Sherman, whose ca- was seriously damaged by Hollywood's blacklisting, "ain't gone," have been seen recently in a director of such television series as "The Widows," "Tucson Hospital," "Bonita," "Dupont Alley, M.D.," and "O'Connor Strip."

'Warner's director'

He had begun as an actor, appearing on Broadway and in a handful of movies, among them 1933's "Grandeur of Love," in which he had a small but memorable role as a young anarchist opposite John Barrymore. He also wrote several screenplays, including "Crime School," which starred Bogart and the Dead End Kids.

Because of his ability to evoke powerful performances from strong-willed female stars – he also directed Ida Lupino, Ann Sheridan and Patricia Neal – Sherman became known as a "Warner's director" by the studio's publicity department.

ACTOR Fernando Barcenas, left, looks through the viewfinder, assisted by Vincent Sherman, while filming "Adventures of Don Juan," 1948.

Sherman also gained a reputation for remaking many of his former actresses, and because most were in the 1950 autobiography, "Studio affairs."

Though both were married at the time, he and Davis had an affair that began during the filming of 1943's "Old Acquaintance" and continued through "Mr. Skeffington," which was released the following year. His affiliance with

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First look 'Pirates'

From page A4-1

How come you met Orlan

I don't like meeting people, just meeting actors and going on actor comes to me for a mo famous, I always say to them when they walk in the door, 'I am not going to take much of your time. I know your work. I just wanted to see you face-to-face as usual as I didn't cast the picture from a DVD or something." So I say 'Hello. Thank you. I have to go now, nice to meet you.' I think you are wonderful." The actor is always very grateful because he doesn't want us to linger and be treated like an [illegible] question. The actor would say, "It was a pleasure meeting you, Mr. Allan." He goes and see him him. That's exactly what I did with Orlando. I met with him for two seconds. I didn't have to watch his DVDs but I saw 20 minutes to come carry he was out.

Going back to this movie, Jeff's character snoop around Hanover to solve a crime. In this, do you snoop through your scenes?

Oh, whenever possible (laughter). I love to snoop. I [illegible] Daughter]... It's one scenes that is surveillance things. I bought a surveillance thing that looks like a clock you couldn't tell that it was playing a video picture in our house. I put the clock in my friend house because there were their '90s and they had a woman taking care of them. I wanted to make sure that the woman was treating them nicely. I just like but I put it to school right so you ly saw everybody's hands [illegible] from how [illegible] husband]. In [illegible] my mother's and father's [illegible] only. I finally went back and listened it so you can see people. When I saw the way the woman was, I wanted to get the woman's house. Usually because my parents were both and the woman was [illegible] dental.

Tell us more about how [illegible] practice the character.

I am not a fan of "Stayman" intellectually. [laughter]. I think have been there when I come home in the afternoon and put the stay clothes. I turn the sound off the television set but I [illegible] the picture on because it is [illegible] hearing to practice. So I am practicing the clothes and so that are some of the shows like "Desperate Housewives," I see those beautiful women and to [illegible] gee, it is very pleasant. I believe the silly facial [illegible] the beautiful women who play the [illegible] that is [illegible]

E-mail the columnist at [illegible]

ord

RTA Hapworth and Sherman on the set of "Affair to Trinidad," 1952.

Vincent Sherman, 'quiet and relaxed' H'wood director, dies at 99

After graduating from Oglethorpe University, he sought an acting career in New York, joining the left-wing Group Theatre. Since ethnic names for actors were unfashionable, he changed his to Vincent Sherman. Squarely built with black hair and a ruggedly handsome face, he quickly began appearing on Broadway.

In the late 1940s, Warner Bros. hired Sherman under an acting-writing-directing contract, and he was assigned to the studio's hottest stars, adapting all three talents seamless.

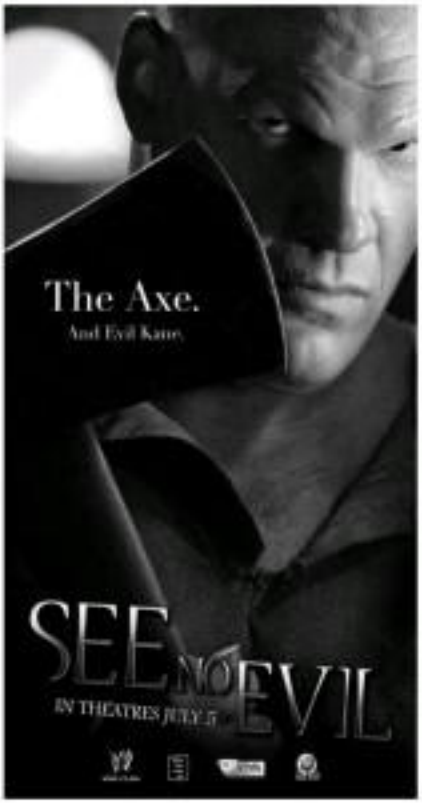
He broke out as a director in 1942 with a gripping melodrama "The Hard Way."

Although he would go on to direct many important projects, he never rose to the level that would afford him consideration for an Academy Award.

"Of the 30 pictures that I made, I really liked only 10 or 12 of them," he said in 1997. "The rest were what we called bread-and-butter pictures."

Besides Iris, Sherman is survived by his daughter, Helenis Walmark, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. — Bob Thomas, AP

WOODY Allen



JOHN BUTLI
"Challenging job."

Pinoy artist in H'wood animated film 'Open Season'

By Janet Susan R. Hegales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICAN artist John Butler is excited about his work in "Open Season," the animated movie where Ashton Kutcher does voice-acting for the one-horned mule deer Elliot.

"I briefly worked on 'Open Season' as a creature modeler working on costume props and environment sets," Butler told Inquirer Entertainment in an exclusive interview. "Some of those are Boog's (the 900-pound bear voiced by Martin Lawrence) backpack, hunter rifles, miscellaneous appliances and props, and the characters' houses. After only a few weeks on 'Open Season,' I was immediately given my next movie assignment, 'Surf's Up,' which is scheduled for release in the summer of 2007."

Asked what challenges he encountered while working on the CG-animated Sony Pictures movie, Butler said it was getting the target look of the characters and props to match the artists' designs.

"We would go side by side with the artists (designers as I worked interactively with the artist next to me," he said. "(But) I also had some creative freedom in designing some of the sets and props."

Two other Pinoys

Directed by Roger Allers ("The Lion King") and Jill Culton ("Monsters, Inc." "Toy Story 2"), with co-director Anthony Stacchi ("Surf"), the movie had two other Filipino-American in the production staff.

Pamela Ramos was assistant production manager of the animation department and Krista Hood was production office coordinator.

Ramos was born in Manila but migrated to the US with his parents (Ramos and Boyland) when he was two. He studied art and graphic design at the Art Institute of Seattle. "I came my job here at Sony supervising 60 animators and working with them to develop things develop and grow from scratch," he said.

Boyd was born in California and raised there by his parents Ricardo and Cecile. Married to Jennifer Kimberland, who is half-Filipino, Jeff Riverstone, '8os' graduate) been the San Francisco State University where he studied his production.

Paquiao fan

"The most challenging part of my job is being a body-of-all-trades. Since I work with everybody from production to department to me anymore, they all come to me with questions. If I do not know the answer, I make sure I find someone who does. Our department is new, so we are all like guinea pigs and that is the most exciting thing," he pointed out.

Both Pinoys are excited to be a part of this first CG feature film of GSN, and are looking forward to being a part of a Filipino-inspired movie in the future.

"I was myself in producing a Manny Pacquiao movie or documentary. He is my idol," Hood confessed.

Based on the humor of cartoonist Steve Moore ("To His Mischief"), "Open Season" is about animals coming together to survive in the wilderness and protect themselves from hunters and domestication.

The movie is about a 900-pound bear named Boog who is adopted and domesticated by a park ranger (Debra Messing). Boog's life changes when he meets the one-horned mule deer Elliot (Ashton Kutcher) who taught him to go-and into the wilderness. Unfortunately, when they escape the comfort of Boog's adopted home, it really (how does) for from the start of the open on hunting season—and the arrival of the badly poisoned deer hunter (Gary Sinise).

First time

Sandra Rabito and Rosary Finkelstein Cox, executive vice presidents of Sony Pictures Animation (SPA), are responsible for the development and production of all CG animated films for Sony Pictures Entertainment. The two executives have recruited an impressive roster of directors to work on the company's inaugural film.

Cox said it was the first time for Butler, Klein, Blooming and Lawrence do voice-acting or animation.

"We were not sure that Ashton would cut you need to see some method what he did," Cox said. "He came in, read the script and then said, 'Yeah, I could do this.' He has been a pleasure to work with and he is so funny and active. Actually the actors come and lots of people because they get inspiration from them. There are busy actors so we give them schedules that work for them—two or three hours today. We are flexible. There are no rules. They just come in—even in their pajamas."

At present, Sony has 65 to 66 animators, with at least 20 of them recently working on this film. It was hand drawn to digital.

To inspire the animators, Sony Imagen brought them to the wilderness, up to Southwest California's redwoods.

No to pirates

Hal Lieslau, vice chairman of Sony Pictures Entertainment and president of Sony Pictures Digital, said that to avoid piracy, the movie will be released much closer to the US release date.

"We still also try to encourage people to go out to the theater and watch it with a group and have fun instead of watching a poorly done pirated copy by yourself," Lieslau added. "We should all battle this piracy problem because we will not be able to make films if the rate of piracy continues. We will do all that we can to eliminate it. It is indeed scary that it has already become worldwide."

Lieslau formed Sony Pictures Digital in 1999, bringing together all the digital artists and software engineers from Sony Pictures Imageworks, Sony Online Entertainment and Columbia Tristar Interactive (now manufacturing sony into one division. He said animated movies usually do well in the box office. Last year, he noted, three such features made a combined $800 million.

"Art, story people to laugh, love and cry," Cox said. "Humor always comes out of conflict. It can have disparate characters with different goals and different needs and that is all that we do in our daily lives. We solve conflict to get to a better place in our lives."

BOOGIE and Elliot, main characters

We thank THE ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA, whose members are among the country's prime movers, for awarding

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"In the case of GMA-7... over the past three years, the Rotary Club of Manila has opted not to give an award for TV Station of the Year. But the judges felt that in 2005... news coverage, investigative work, public affairs, really represented very balanced reporting, in-depth coverage which was real public service."

TOM BANGUN, Chairman Rotary Club of Manila Journalism Awards

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SHELDON for men...

... and women of course

Look, *lola*, see what they did to the **patadyong**

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

UP UNTIL THE 70s, WOMEN IN THE IGOROT areas used a patadyong to take a bath since to cover themselves with while doing the laundry in the river. The patadyong, made of hidden cloth made of cotton blends in plain or plaid patterns) is a tubular square cloth that you sort of 'shawl' yourself into and clean by the chest to prevent from falling.

It leaves the shoulders and neck bare.

When water systems were built, women stopped doing their laundry and taking them back by the river.

(CONT'D)

AyalaLand Premier

I didn't get to keep the starfish... I didn't keep the sea cucumber either.

But I'm keeping the baby the nature keeper gave me!

Welcome to Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club – only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Here, family lifestyle flourishes! Introduce kids (and adults) too to the most fascinating creatures in their seaside habitat.

Anvaya Cove is a seaside leisure community developed by Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan. Share your vision in paradise by owning a membership share. Build your vacation home amidst stunning sea views or verdant forests. 32 can-haps, that's a lot of forward looks after all, in two private pools.

Family time
Endless summers

ANVAYA COVE

Move over Jim Thompson, here comes Palmos

JIM THOMPSON IS A BRAND OF THAI silk linen, clothing and lifestyle accessories. It was set up by an American soldier who settled in Thailand in 1951. Today it has about $50 million in sales a year.

It started as a fabric and clothing store and has since created a whole lifestyle range using Thai silk.

Nono Palmos, a local fashion designer who grew up in Mingcat in Iloilo, a weaving center, is attempting to do this with a variety of local materials which he himself helps fabricate. But, having been successful in tapping the foreign market for his clothes, Nono is also going to the international market first with his ethnic placemats, Roman shades, silk curtains, cable runners. Below are some of the accessories Nono has created:

LIFESTYLE accessories of local materials

A taste of Ilocos in Manila

Couple builds business on empanada discovery from the north

By Emmanuel Gabriel
Contributor

JUST AS BITS COFFEE, BAcolod Chicken Inasal and Vigan's longsilogan successfully transplanted their local delicacies into mainstream Manila, another provincial specialty, Ilocos empanada, from Batac, Ilocos Norte is joining the fray.

Its orange crust will have you at its touch.

Every operable of oalong Baba that accompanies every bite into-an flavor empanada is crash dynamite inside—"a delicious blend of flavor-forgetter, ground green peppers, mongo sprout and egg—giving you a whole new reason not to leave your empanada anywhere near.

For almost a decade now, a little store in Barangay Ilaya keeps giving its loyal customers "heaven in goodness Ilocos empanada" treat, master of the provincial delicacy that has become a staple snack in Luzon.

Hooked on the first bite

Nine years ago, Carol Habli was just another customer tasting her first bite of this delicacy. That year, she had her first encounter with the Ilocos empanada in Luzon, when a good friend invited her and husband Ding for a vacation.

"The moment that we try this delicious provincial snack that was only served at night, Luzon's version of the empanada. What amazed us was how it was made; there were different stalls serving the same delicacy and being cooked in full view of the customers at the place.

Carol recounts how she saw cooks stuffing the orange dough with sausage, longganisa boiled, green papaya and raw egg at topping, the night's pic is then deep fried until golden.

After our first bite, my husband and I were instantly hooked, relates Carol.

Bringing home the bacon

Seeing how she loved the delicacy her husband suggested why not bring the snack to Manila? Months after tasting her first Ilocos empanada, Carol was all geared up, with P100,000 and a dream to open a business with a product she intimately enjoys.

The first challenge was to source out the ingredients of the Ilocos empanada. Through her then partner, Carol was able to find someone from the province who could teach them how the results. "she was hesitant to teach us at first, however, it was a secret recipe in the province. Through persistent wooing, she eventually taught us how to make the empanada, the secret ingredients and the manner it is cooked. The main problem she first encountered in trying out the recipe was the cook's penchant for adding seasoning to taste.

Consistency is key

Carol standardized the process in order to make her version of the Ilocos empanada saleable in Manila. Besides coming up with smart measurements for the ingredients to make the taste consistent, she also made sure not to use MSG in her products for health conscious users.

Aside from our opinion, what also sets us apart from other Ilocos empanada stores is our stall. I trained all of them so they could perform the art of making our empanadas. I also make sure to change the oil on a regular basis as every empanada contains in flavor, she explains.

What makes our Ilocos empanada stand out is its consistent taste, says owner Carol Habli. We've come up with our own version of the Ilocos empanada that you can enjoy for its rich flavor while properly adhering to a clean process you would want your empanada to be cooked in.

The owner "unlike the think one the original Ilocos empanada has " has a thin dough that gives its crispy crunchy taste. On top of that, Ilocos Empanada Corner's staff wear gloves as they mix the ingredients, make the dough and cook the empanada, so customers are assured that their empanadas are made fresh.

Carol's empanadas are measured for consistency. "Being in the business for nine years has taught me to know my clients' needs. Unlike the usual way it is made, my system allows me to create about 2 dozen in just five minutes, so they don't have to wait, unlike in the province where they make it some more, she explains.

Healthy option

Another edge of Ilocos Empanada Corner, Carol claims, is variety. "On the only one who introduced chicken empanadas to my stores eyes have a choice aside from the usual pork. I also have all veggies empanadas to satisfy the cravings of vegetarians."

No wonder she has clients who even come all the way from Pangasinan and Baguio just to experience her delicious empanadas. Besides empanadas, they can also pick from other Ilocos products available for take home; bagnet, Ilocos longganisa, sukang Iloko, and even frozen empanadas for those who want to enjoy them at home. She has also developed a recipe for frozen lumpiang ubod, another favorite among her customers.

Replicating her success

Carol says she is set to open another outlet at the SM Pasig Annex Extension. The location for them to open at a Shoemart property was the break they were waiting for. It took a while, but they got the call and set up shop purchases. They soon hope to sell the outlet to locate franchisees. "Through the years, we were able to establish a reputable name and system, which I believe is very attractive for franchising, adds Carol."

THE ORIGINAL ILOCOS empanada is orange dough with orange, longganisa boiled, green papaya and raw egg as topping. Fried until it lays.

CAROL and Ding Habli

US culinary school cooking in Makati

THE FIRST AMERICAN CULinary school in the Philippines recently opened in Makati City with 30 students.

The school—the American Hospitality Academy Philippines...is the first culinary education facility owned by the American Hospitality Academy (AHA), an organization that has been providing training for students from all over the world in well-known hotel and resorts in the US for the past 20 years. It is based in Fillmore Road Interior Southern Carolina.

The AHA was established in 1988 by Cindi Brennan, a native of Chicago, and has partnered with several known hotel chains like the Carlton Hill, Hyatt Meridot and Hilton in providing the training to hospitality students.

Brennan says the hospitality industry as a perfect bet to help the Philippines' underperforming as it helps down social barriers through its hearing of different cultures in an environment that promotes peace and friendships.

AHA's programs are exchange visitor programs recognized by the US State Department.

Asked why the AHA is opening its very first culinary school here in the Philippines instead of the United States or another Asian country, Brennan replied: "Filipinos love to cook and appreciate good food. Filipinos are known to be a friendly and hospitable race, perfect for the hospitality industry. My parents experience with hard-working Filipinos who took up AHA's internship program reinforced my decision to put up our very first school in the country."

The culinary school business in this country has been bullish with some 20 culinary schools now offering professional culinary courses.

AHA Philippines offers a Texas accredited 6-month Diploma in Culinary Arts program and an 8-month Diploma in Culinary Art and Entrepreneurship program that started this month. TESDA stands for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority the government skills training overseer.

The programs are open to high school and college graduates. The six-months culinary arts program includes courses in food safety and sanitation, kitchen math, product identification, knife skills, butchery and fish mongering.

Four months is devoted to hands-on training in the classrooms and the last two to on-the-ship training in a local hotel or restaurant.

"Unlike other culinary schools, where five or more students are assigned to a cooking station, we will take care that the AHA student will do actual hands-on everyday" says Cory Cordova, AHA-Philippines president and managing partner.

After the six-months culinary arts program, trainees may opt to continue to the six-month culinary arts and entrepreneurship program.

Backed to the six or nine-month program is

CHEF Gene Cordova of AHA and Chef William "Bill" St. Reynolds, the provost of the Washburne Culinary Institute (WCI) in Chicago.

a two-month internship program which will require students to train as apprentices in a local hotel after which they will have the option to do a six-months to one-year internship program in the US.

For details about the programs and the fees involved, please call 6760 4833 or visit www.ahaph2.com.

Ex-jeweller and doctor concoct Filipino resto with a Greek twist

ANNE LIMSON-QUIMCO, 32, was a jeweller for 12 years, and had been going to the network's top cooking schools since age 13. Her mother, who she says is a very good cook, and her father, who she says loves good food, were her early culinary inspirations.

Husband, Raymond, 34, a doctor turned businessman, is into the ice cream business. He owns the Pirate in Ice Cream (PIC) scooping emporium at the Port Area, Market Market & Makati Golf Club scooping stations.

Anne and Raymond decided to create a restaurant that will uplift the Filipino cuisine. The result was Plato Restaurant at the Fort Strip. The name is from the Greek 'plato' for" which is meant "beloved."

The menu was designed by Chef Ed Quimson in collaboration with Anne and Dan Gandy.

Plato' best sellers include are Gambas, Adobo Relleno Spaghetti, Crab Shrimp and Mango Salad, Bangus Sisig stuffed with pinakbet and Fort Beef stew baked Adobo are the Must-Try Thirds Stix, Baked Garlic Chicken, Adobong Puti Rice which requires an hour in advance to order.

If you do come and Raymond are Plato in the future?

Their reply: "More Plato branches—coming almost!"

To celebrate its first birthday, Plato will give a 10 percent privilege cards to some of its guests and to frequent diners. For queries, call 810-9686.

ANNE and Raymond Quimco

Look, lola . . .

from page B1

MOSQUITO net for the beach, anyone?

The demand for the pandemic declined.

At Bling-as in Iloilo where there used to be a strong fashion sweeping industry there numbered just a handful of old weavers by the early 90s, according to Dulcesi designer Bruno Pelayo. Many ages these weavers ago, Pelayo, especially Bling-as, was a big supplier of fashion for the country.

When the Spaniards came to the Philippines over 300 years ago, the barangay-Iloilo were already using the fashion. The Spanish later created the barot saya with Cha, using the colorful plaid cloth as the skirt or saya, and were exporting the duds to Europe.

Come the modern times and no-body wants to use the pandering. But Bruno hopes that will change.

He says Magsar Bayan Cesario Ilo-ilo called to him a few years ago to ask to help revive the fashion (which means women's industry).

Pelayo agreed to Bayan was to give the fashion a modern twist. He designed a line of modern wear using the fashion and showcased this in a fashion show in Magsar.

Pelayo says the used local women as models but brought in a production artist from Manila.

The brought renewed interest in weaving and Nono says the Magsar women wanted to learn the old craft again. Then Sen. Loren Legarda

FROM BODY wrap to beach wear

helped get a grant from the British Embassy to construct a building for the weavers and provide other assistance.

Today, Nono says there are about 300 weavers in Bling-as.

Pelayo says the local government had uniforms made for its employees using the woven material.

Pelayo, whose clientele includes members of the diplomatic corps and expatriates, started incorporating

FASHION designer Bruno Pelayo

hablon and other local materials into his clothes. Recently he had a private show for the lady members of the Australian and New Zealand Association.

Pelayo created summer and beach wear using the hablon.

And the beautiful.

Getting inspiration from the fact that the mosquito net is airy, light and sufficient to protect, Pelayo created sarongs and beach wear worn for the local resort fashion scene but now only used in the provinces.

Pelayo has also been developing new kinds of cloth from local materials such as jute and silk.

Economics of tuba-tuba

Text & photos by Aquiles Z. Zonio
PIA Tabaco Bureau

TUBA-TUBA, SANTOS CITY—TOP officials of 21 Oils Philippines, Inc. have scanned tuba-tuba plantation here and early of sodium oil supplier but also a ready market for their produce.

This a welcome asset to locals like Jose Tubeo who runs a jatropha nursery nursery and leads the campaign to propagate jatropha through the Sitio San Jose Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SJMP-MPC).

The propagation of jatropha, locally known as tuba-tuba, is one of the pet projects of the cooperative members. They recently signed a seed supply agreement with 21 Oils, under which the Oil-based company committed to buy all the tuba-tuba seeds produced by SJMP-MPC.

21 Oils PLC is primarily engaged in growing, refining and marketing bio-diesel, of which tuba-tuba is a potential source.

Tubeo said growing tuba-tuba is ideal for small farmers because the plant is easy to propagate and grows almost anywhere.

Aside from being a source of bio-diesel, tuba-tuba oil is also used in making soaps, lotion and candles. Its protein content may be used in raw material for plastic and synthetic fiber.

It is also said to have high medicinal value as its latex can calm paroxysm, an effusive nasal hemorrhage.

Data shows that a hectare of land can be planted to 2,500 to 3,500 tuba-tuba seedlings, and after one year produce two to six tons of oily nuts.

It takes about five years for the tuba-tuba to mature, after which the farmers should earn at least P70,000 a year from the sale of the oil, according to SJM MPC officials.

HILOT-SEARING tuba-tuba at the seed bed of SJMP-MPC in General Santos City.

21 Oils Phils., Inc. operations manager Richard Torres (left) and 21 Oils SLR head agronomist Ali Nur Pasar.

ORGANIC RICE FARMING

Good for farmers' pockets, friendly to the environment

By Anselmo Roque
PIA Northern Luzon Bureau

SCIENCE CITY OF Muñoz—Juanito Tambalo, a farmer of Barangay Mangandingay here, avows that organic rice farming has provided ample benefits for him and other members.

Being a member of a cooperative that supports sustainable rice production and marketing, prompted him to go into declared of farming. His production expenses dropped resulting in bigger profits and he is not exposed to health hazards brought by chemicals used in conventional farming. He is also assured of the financing and marketing of his produce.

Tambalo's good fortune is not limited to what he shared by 121 farmers in Nueva Ecija. Their number is growing as their Kooperatibang Likas ng Nueva Ecija (Kooni Sil) is now raising more members.

Tambalo, 42, says he and his colleagues are now using organic fertilizer, thereby hurting two birds by one stone. Aside from saving money and combating the "golden kuhol" (snail), considered pests in most farms, through indigenous means.

The group uses about 70 tanks of chicken manure as compost for the plant of their farms.

For control of pests and diseases, fermented fruit and sugar of "kakawate" and neem tree and "makabuhay" plantsare sprayed on rice plants.

Some farmers found it easier to control pests and diseases, one, as just do the "kakawate" leaves to drift to their farm when they irrigate, he says.

Pepper, like "siling labuyo" or "siling pulay" is sometimes used but with caution as the farmer may suffer body discomforts, especially in the eyes, if affected.

For control of the weeds, farmers make certain that land preparation is thorough. Good water management is practiced—aside from good crop establishment, it also helps in controlling the proliferated weeds.

For "golden kuhol" control, a small canal near dikes is built where mollusks are destroyed as the mudfield is drained.

In substituting chicken manure for chemical fertilizer, a farmer uses a number formula—at least three bags of chicken manure are substituted for a bag of chemical fertilizer.

The average yield is 130 cavans per hectare. At P600 a cavan, the gross is P66,000. The net return is a little over P20,000 after deducting cost of production, land rental, irrigation fee, labor, and threshing.

SOME of the packaged organic rice and developed commodities from rice and rice wastes produced by Nueva Ecija's organic rice farmers who belong to a cooperative engaged in sustainable agriculture.

Tambalo and his colleagues use the inbred rice varieties, instead of the hybrid varieties because the latter are too dependent on chemicals.

Sustainable agriculture

Tambalo was recruited as local community organizer of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM's) and his talent became a leader of the recruited members.

He joined the Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka para sa Likas Sayang Sakahan sa Nueva Ecija (Kalikasan PRRM), a group advocating for sustainable agriculture, among other things. The group has 10 organizations as members.

In 2002, Kalikasan Sil and the PRRM, in a joint venture, formed Kooni Sil to support sustainable rice production and marketing.

"It is now our responsibility," Student Cornelio, PRRM branch manager for Nueva Ecija, says.

He says Kooni Sil is a multi-purpose cooperative that is run like a corporation. A business team takes charge of the financing and marketing aspects of the cooperative.

Cornelio says the PRRM and Kalikasan Sil provide technical assistance to cooperative members on how to improve their productivity.

Among rice practices being advanced is value-adding in their rice produce, conversion of low-grade rice into flours and rice bran into commercial products, and engaging in diversified and integrated farming methodology.

"Our concept is that the members of the cooperative can have a net income of from P150,000 to P600,000 in a hectare from organic rice farming," he says.

Aniceto Concepcion, general manager of the cooperative, says Kooni Sil provides crop production loans to members at 3.5 percent interest rate per month. Farmers get production loans disbursed at an average interest rate of 18 percent.

The cooperative also provides micro-financing of up to P15,000 to non-member entrepreneurs and employees at 4 percent a month.

He says the cooperative buys the members' organic rice produce at 50 to 50 centavos per kilo more than what rice mill owners offer.

The rice is then processed and marketed by the cooperative in Metro Manila at P1,250 per sack of 50 kilos each.

Concepcion says the cooperative now sells an average of 800 cavans of organic rice every month.

MAP starts 'Quest for Innovative Solutions' series

THE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (MAP) is holding a series of fora organized by the MAP Management Development Committee through JC Nick Jolejole on "The Quest for Innovative Solutions."

The series will be held every Thursday, 9 AM to 11 AM a.m. on July 15, September 16, and November 9.

The series will address several management concerns, such as How to handle the high intensity interconnectedness; How to sustain competitive advantages gained from technological superiorities in the surge resistance; and Identifying innovative approaches to management.

Speakers include Isidro C. Tan, chair of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc.; Gregorio S. Sitoy Jr., managing partner and CEO of Punongbayan & Araullo; Alfredo J. Ayala, chair, Ayalaone Global Solutions on the Business Process Outsourcing with moderator Jesus Philip E. Arao of the Graduate School of Business of De La Salle University Professional School, Inc.; Carlos C. Ejercito, president and CEO, Unitel Information Group of Companies on Intell'Com.

For inquiries call (632) 751-1112 or e-mail mapcs@globeone.com.ph. There are running registration fees for MAP members and Chief Executives and other organizations.

Soap-making talk set

LEARN THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW on how to make different soap and maximize your own soap at home and earn extra cash.

The Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will again conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making to be held at the SPMA Alumni Center, Magsaysay avenue, Diliman Jr., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City on July 3, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing. There will be a hands-on experience on how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid laundry soap, detergent soap, herbal bath soap, powder soap, or shampoo, bonus routine on liquid bleach, fabric softener, tile and hard cleaner. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. For inquiries, call 912-4838, 925-0530, 952-2840, 440-7826 and 913-6051.

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Sunday BIZ

LIESEL VERCES hopped on a table Mardi Gras-style to join in one-stop-shop Philippine jacket and body ink courtesy of Ellen Josephine Hidalgo.

Baguio designers want their garbs to rule

Fashion group moves to rid city of 'wagwag central' tag

By Vincent Cabreza
INQ Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Taking another stab at making down the tourist-drawing "ukay ukay" (secondhand garment business) in Baguio, fashion designers, hair stylists, tailors and photographers are organizing themselves into a business network that will develop a generated P20-million local fashion market.

Informed after the one-stop-shop business centers, the newly formed artist league Federated ARTS is inviting events coordinators, photographers, beauty parlor operators and investors to join their campaign to introduce new fashion trends to tourists.

Genoveva Bautista-Dizon, a member of ALU, says Baguio does not deserve the tag as the country's "wagwag (or ukay ukay) central" found room for imported bargain items sold along sidewalks and inside second-hand shops.

She says wagwag fashion should be ready for original and inexpensive materials, considering that they "come up to Baguio, going to ready places looking for fashion."

Dizon says local designers and tailors can match a used Prada fashion suit that sells for P3,000 to wagwag houses with originally designed suits using Chinese fabrics, and a price tag that is a few hundred pesos lower.

Chinese or pinta fabric used to sell at a retail price of P60 a yard, but the cost has gone down to P40 a yard, and the usual rewash that prices may fall again soon, says Jose Leon, one of ALU's fashion designers.

Leon says fabric vendors can also be tempted down to a manageable level, if all of the stylists, tailors and designers of the ALU network agree to keep cost-down so they can attract orders/contracts that will consolidate Baguio's garments business.

Ditas says wagwag would keep their original designs (simple prints) because fine and oil-used clothes from Hong Kong provide them with large supplies of imported fabric.

But ALU is doing more than just bare down the lucrative $1 million-a-day bargain clothes market.

GIOVEDIS Cole Rio wears a hand painted barong tagalog by Ben Quiro.

LOUISELAINE Dreary Marquez inspects an old Baguio beauty in an orange-version gown in Gido Baguio.

The group is also empowering gay men who have been unable to build up their small businesses here due in part to competition brought by imported, ready-to-wear garments.

These small shops are also competing among themselves. There are over 100 tailoring and beauty shops in Baguio today, according to the city licensing office.

Ester, who is the former chapter president of the Federation Baguio-Cordillera Association of the Philippines, says almost all of these shops are run by homosexual men, who ventured into the beauty shop trade because that was a stereotyped job they were accustomed to doing.

An informal survey conducted by a local group indicated an absence in economic growth for most operators of beauty shops.

The typical Baguio beauty shop requires a P150,000 investment, but many stand sure, and the slow pace of walk-in clients often compel some of them shops to close within eight months.

The huge number of shops, however, is a good sign.

Madrid says Cordillerans no longer dress per tuos, and most openly homosexual men have gone public through their hairdo creations.

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Congratulation to Peter Paul Philippines Corporation on your 60th Anniversary!

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Cheche Bascal-Formoso

Design ideas for newlyweds to add blissful style to their living room, dining room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen

at HOME

JUST MARRIED: Love nest for two

By Alice Y. Vergara

OUT OF AFRICA

FASHION DOES MIRROR INTERIOR design. Model and interior designer Angeles Alentu-Sadhwani discreetly the current rage among fashionistas to merge themselves in animal prints by creating a bedroom showcase that mixes and matches zebra print throws, animal-print candles and feathered lampshades with a mat-textured bed made of rope and wrought iron, all from Play & Display.

Soon, husband and wife will share this bedroom. Alentu-Sadhwani resorts to a great deal of neutral-colored pieces such as browns, beige and black. She infuses colors through such accessories as vases, throw pillows and paintings.

Apart from the use of neutral colors, she also imparts the space with an eclectic feel that marries both masculine and feminine characteristics: leather chair set against gilt-framed mirror; leather and furry throw pillows; and neo-baroque candlestick atop unwoodened coffee table. She also chose traditional bakalan tables in favor of reproducible pieces that are either family heirlooms or can pass from the couple's days as swinging singles.

Creating a bedroom together could be a couple's first big test as married partners. Alentu-Sadhwani insists that both parties should be involved in every aspect of the design process—from choosing furniture pieces to paint colors. This way, she adds, the bedroom will reflect their respective personalities and not just one person's preference.

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Love nest

ANDROGYNOUS GLOW

INTERIOR DESIGNER JR PARREÑO OF the Philippine School of Interior Design assembles a living room showcase that involves "traditional pieces in an unconventional way for a contemporary setting."

To achieve his vision, Parreño makes use of a three-seater, two-seater, two ottomans, two side tables, a bench and coffee table, all from Our Home at SM Megamall. Apart from taking up relatively small space, the showcase evokes youth and fun, for at the same time is designed to last long without looking tired or dated.

Parreño purposely went for neutral, "androgynous" colors, which he considers suitable both for housewives and entertaining. Such a color scheme, he adds, is ideal for newlyweds since it's virtually maintenance-free.

Before buying pieces for the living room, Parreño advises couples to determine first what their priorities are. Do you intend to use the space primarily for conversations or for frequent cocktail parties? Only then can you make wise shopping decisions.

Since the living room is meant for people who are visiting, he thinks it's better to stick to neutral shades. This doesn't mean, however, that the owners should refrain from injecting their personalities into the area. In this case, they should let their accessories, from picture frames to paintings, vases to throw pillows, do the talking.

Turn page 4 »

CHINESE TAKEOUT

TO CREATE A DINING room showcase with hints of Orientalia, interior designer Nina Pereyra-Valdez works with various heritage pieces available at the Home Zone in Glorietta. The main dining table and chairs, as well as the hanging light fixtures, are from Hamilton, while the crystal balls are from Victoria. In an attempt to "personalize" the place, she also makes use of several picture frames from Dimensions.

She takes into consideration the limited space most newlyweds have to work with and chooses a streamlined glass-topped table. The versatile-looking chairs, which take on a different character when paired with accent chairs (pillows) from Gyba, can double as accent pieces in the living room.

A divider from Home & Beyond defines the dining area from the imaginary living room without disrupting the flow of any visible architecture. Carved from Shell Canvas in the divider to make it look antiquelike.

Before buying furniture pieces, she says, it's important for newlyweds to check if the furniture's dimensions conform to the space for which they're intended. Couples must think long-term when buying big or major furniture pieces and short-term when buying accents.

The design enables newlyweds to change the dining accents look often, while allowing them the chance to invest on vases, plates and glasses that won't be too expensive or replace when they break. When they do get into a fight after the honeymoon, they can throw the cheap stuff (not as much value, hopefully) and no regrets.

LOVE NEST/ C3

Love nest

SOFT, FLUFFY AND BRIGHT

INSTEAD OF STICKING TO NEUtral shades, interior designer Cheila Lubrow, Monica Lagman and Darlene Pendrel infuse their bathroom decorum, composed of various elements from rhinestones and Robinsons Department Store, with orange, green and other strong colors.

To tell you the effect of stainless steel racks and organizers, Che Ivy spruced the space up with a series of tall, translucent vases with attractive and virtually maintenance-free silk flowers.

A small house's bathroom may be modest in size, but it can be filled with luxurious baths, fluffy towels, neon rugs and even slippers. This is one stage in the newlyweds' lives, says Lubrow, where they can (and should!) fully enjoy such luxuries.

Couples can also vary the look of their bathrooms without wreaking havoc on their budgets. For one, says Lubrow, they can occasionally use fresh flowers in lieu of silk ones. They can also change accent colors by regularly changing accessories—from area rugs to shower curtains—in different shades and prints.

Candles, potpourri, oval petals and botanicals scents for home environment aromatherapy mission can also jazz up the bathroom experience. The ones for the couple to indulge a nose bud on favor fill be ones aren't coming out after the other.

LOVE NEST >>

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Love nest

From page C1

COZY KITCHEN

A STARTER home for newlyweds is usually equipped with a kitchen where everything is conveniently within reach. Thankfully, there are good ones appliances that can make life easy for new couples so as some. Sleek kitchen closets fluster cooks will find functionality upon stuffing 6-8 cubic feet single-door refrigerator a blessing. Stylish enough for an elegant condo unit, it brings warmth to design's heritage or Forbes' home as the Ka's special paramos packages are being offered.. It also ensures optimum food preservation.

Features to shake the spacious freezer, chiller, fruits and vegetables bin, plus durable wire shelves, accommodates different spaces, and sits enough frozen dinner.

No kitchen should be without an oven range. A gas oven, broiler if this exercise-up plastics is built-in. A good-sized microwave oven to add a strong capability. If both partners are working, cooking quite complex in the limited portion can a no pressure over gives.

Of course, every well-fur-nished new has a home tools for a working mother, which is no longer a luxury these days but a necessity.

The Samsung 10.2cu.ft. 2-tag drum-type washing machine comes with the Silver Maestro system and spin speed of 1,000 rpm, customized wash programs, smart function, stainless steel tub, child-lock mechanism, digital display and, best of all, super quiet operation.

Building Cor
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- St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, for the

The partnership of the PLDT Group -- PLDT, Foundation -- with the Gawad Kalinga Foundation helping these communities through livelihood oppor employees volunteer to build houses as well as help sessions in day care centers in over 70 GK villages n

With GK, we are not just building communities, we

PLDT

View the wood sculptures of the Bangkal Sculptors at Lunata park beside

Weddings and wish lists

Pretzel page 04

ping and delivery of gifts. Exchanges can be arranged, too, although duplicates will almost be unavoidable because Booker-of-the-month-ing items.

Bonus: If the purchases reach a certain amount, Booker offers to host the bridal shower for up to 40 guests. "We take care of everything—from the invitations, the food and the games," said Lizzie Banzuela, Booker's marketing consultant. It also provides the couple with a gift (hammer) which can tell them when they prepare their thank-you cards.

Ethan Allen

Couples who visit the Ethan Allen showroom and discuss their desired gifts will be given registry coupons, depending on the number of guests. These coupons may be used to purchase items on the couple's wish list. Exchanges are allowed and couples can add to their registry. Top picks are sofas, beds and mattresses. Ethan Allen offers gift certificates as well.

Bonus: Ethan Allen has professional interior designers who can assist the couples, while they select items for their live. They can also hold a shindig de colores for good cheer. The cheers, held at the store showroom, is good for up to 50 guests. Ethan Allen also offers high tea suites—consultants going up to 20 persons per customer order.

Gourdo's

Gourdo's asks you to fill out a business card then hand one a check. Let us you can go around the store and choose the items you want on your registry. The list is then printed while you wait. When you sign up at Gourdo's, your guests can also buy gifts for you from living well at The Fashion, Glorietta 2nd branch, said the first things to be bought are the mattresses—not sets, cups and saucers, home plates.

In case there are duplicates, you can exchange the items for other things you like. Your registry stays active a year after your wedding.

Bonus: Gourdo's provides 10-30 percent discount to you can announce your registry to your guests. Guests enjoy a first-time discount and free gift wrapping when they buy items from you list. In case there are items on your list that you don't like, you can enjoy a 15-percent discount when you buy them. Gourdo's will also send you a gift on your first anniversary.

Play & Display

Couples can go to any Play & Display store to sign up. Their store matters will be featured in the bridal registry section at all showrooms. Top picks include queen-sized beds in ethnic and soft leather, ceramic tables, wooden lounge sofas, and tempered glass dining sets. The list can be updated anytime. Play & Display accepts returns and exchanges "as long as it is within the legal customer-servicing promises."

Bonus: Play & Display offers guests 10 percent discount on credit card purchases.

HOME entertainment systems are top picks from Ayala Museum Gourdo's (clockwise from top left). TELLO (5 to 17)

Registry Pambahay

Registry Pambahay offers couples to register at any of its branches. Top picks are linens, pottery and pillows. Exchanges and refunds are easy to the list are welcome. Bridal registrants are announced with a registry, and the names of the couples then appear on Registry Pambahay's website where guests who don't have to come to the store can order items online.

Bonus: Free gift wrapping and free delivery within Metro Manila for a minimum purchase of P5,000. The couple is also given a minimum of 10 bridal discount cards that they can give away to guests. The card entitles them to a 10 percent discount on each purchases and five percent on credit card transactions.

Rustan's

Couples can go to any Rustan's branch and sign up at the bridal registry office where they will be assisted by a bridal consultants. The list of their gift preferences will then be processed to registering guests, as some items are discontinuing a gift to four different couples can choose items to suit their lifestyle, they are encouraged not to buy the basics for the home—dinnerware, glassware, flatware, etc. Couples can update their list anytime, and can exchange duplicate items.

Bonus: Couples can both personalize a most exhausted registry experience in Rustan's office it establishes the service in July, to be called "Rustan's Weddings and Beyond." The service will share observer anniversaries, debuts and showers.

Tendresse and Rattan Fine Arts

The Tendresse Collection Manila specializes in classic Chinese antiques furniture. Some best-sellers include wedding trays. Themes range from Kalamansi and other Asian motifs of art. Couples can register Tendresse and Rattan Fine Arts discover the pieces they want and learn their country information at the store. Top picks are their round trays, wedding cabinets, umbrella and coffee tables. Exchanges are allowed within 10 days of purchase, and couples can add to their list anytime.

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g during the Couples For Christ's 25th anniversary celebration!

Doorway to heaven

MEETING STORY. Bed and linens set by YTB from Ikea, jersey sheets from Crinkle satin sheets by Jessica and raw-edge cocktail sandals in calf leather by Kenneth Cole. Bonnie wears casual suit in linen and cotton over dress shirt in cotton, both by Springfield; pinstripe trousers by Lacoste; and Cora shoes in calf leather by Salvatore Ferragamo.

HAVE FUN. Take it easy. You have the rest of your lives to make the marriage work. Have a relaxed color with these fun towels for starters.

May your first home lead you to a lifetime of marital bliss!

Text by AA Patawaran
Photos by Noel Haresco

A FEW DAYS BEFORE bankers Bonnie Ona and Jennifer Malolos tied the knot, they had quite a preview of what it was like to live their two lives together under one roof. Thanks to their bridal registry and the Internet, they spent a few hours at the home department of Rustan's in Makati making believe they were home as fast as husband and wife.

Two people, one life

Specially set up for their preview were a mini-pupil bed, a cozy sofa, a table for two, and a kitchen where Jenny wishes to have most of her Rhoan graduate of a husband, who spent many years working for Chase Manhattan and relishing on Big Macs in his New York apartment.

"The wedding preparations has been a good enough preview," says Bonnie, divulging in her own words how Jen (Jenny) and I plan to run the wedding, including such seemingly inconsequential details as the borders on their invitations.

"He's exaggerating," argues Jenny coolly. "That's just part of the game."

Thankfully, Bonnie and Jenny have spent many years trying each other out. They met in 2000, when, as officemates, she found him committed, too serious with work. Smitten by her girl-next-door appeal, Bonnie, however, immediately wooed her, after six years and many a LDR (long-distance relationship) era, into a committed relationship.

Bonnie and Jenny are one. They took their vows on June 17 in the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Makati and celebrated the union with a ballroom full of family and friends at the Manila Polo Club.

At the moment, the newlyweds are in New York for a three-week long honeymoon. When they come home, sometime in July, an empty two-bedroom apartment in Pasig will be waiting and so will begin the long process of building their life together.

As a gift to the newlyweds, Jayanee gathered wedded couples Manny and Linda Gamboa, Dave and Bernie Payne, and Richie and Gina Garcia to share some precious advice on the conjugal home and the married life.

LABOR OF LOVE. Modular kitchen by Siemens; Subzero refrigerator by Weil. She wears smart-casual dress in polyester by Laundry. He wears Equal Signs dress shirt by Kenneth Cole and classic denim by Burberry.

His and hers

For the Gamboas, home is not so much a physical space as a life well used wisely lived together.

"Think of it as a long-term investment in terms of affection and material things," says Manny Gamboa, a retired San Miguel Corporation executive, who now dabbles in painting, with three fruit shares in hand, his wonder woman being married to Linda, a marketing and communications "Be thoughtful," he advises.

His wife, Linda Gamboa, executive director of the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, has had the honor of sharing with him a home blessed with three children as well as great bundles of joy a total of four grandchildren and counting.

Linda believes breathing space is indispensable. "One must always be able to enjoy one's own space alone," she says.

Richie and Gina Garcia seem to have shattered upon the secret so quickly after barely two years of marriage. "It's important to designate spaces," says Gina, a child psychologist and educator. "Richie can't live without his airsoft guns, his laptop, his music, so he has his man cave with a desk in which to indulge himself."

Designating space is also effective for lawyer Dave Payne and Bernie, his wife of nearly 12 years. "Our evening room is his and hers," says Bernie, deputy cabinet secretary under the 15th of the Presidents of the Philippines. "Here can mess up the dressing room or organize its as-is-ness."

Bed of roses

The bed is the most important piece of furniture in the conjugal home. "Take time to discuss sleeping habits and preferences before you hunting 'your' bed," Gina says. "When choosing the conjugal bed, sit, jump, lie down on the mattresses as you check out their size, material, thickness, and type. "I got used to a solid, firm bed while Richie got used to spring," recounts Gina. "So we got a plush mattress to give me the support I wanted and allow Richie to bounce at ease."

Dave and Bernie also consider the bed the epicenter of their home, where all four members of their family feel completely safe and carefree. "There's nothing quite like Sundays," boasts Dave, "with all of us piled on the bed, each doing their own thing—reading or watching TV—and yet somehow bonding with each other." But he has a practical tip to new husbands like Stanley: "Don't let the kids get used to sleeping with you...It kills them spontaneous [romantic] moments."

On the conjugal bed Bernie has also had an epiphany. "I used to think couples who have a fight should always kiss and make up before going to sleep," she says. "Now I believe a good night's sleep puts things into perspective. Dave and I even forget we are fighting when we wake up in the morning!"

BOARDWALK 6-7

LOOK forward to lasting happiness. Invest in good china. One dinner set is enough for now. Like your marriage...it is for keeps.

COUNTERUP should not end with "I Do." Occasionally sweep the with-all-her-had-with-priceless gifts. Why not start with this jewelry box, where she can keep all the tokens of your affection.

WILLERBY and Bark dinner set, Reed and Barton cutlery set, Queen Anne candlesticks, and Luigi Bormioli glasses with coasters. She wears cuecle-thick poplin casual top in jessica and plaid linen skirt by Burberry. He wears business suit in wool, polyester, and spandex by Springfield; peppermint shirt by Lacoste; and classic denim by Burberry.

COLORFUL cake trays come in handy for entertaining needs

THE BEDROOM is the sanctuary, soft and warm as lamplight emanating from this functional yet decorative piece of stylized ribbon

COUNTRY STYLE fondue set, perfect for intimate moments of indulgence or for bonding with family and friends

THE ADVISERS (clockwise from bottom left) Richie and Gina Garcia, married Dec. 31, 1994; Manny and Linda Gamboa, married June 6, 1987; and Sara and Berna Pujol, married Oct. 6, 1990

Doorway to heaven

THE DEPLOYED. Russian servicewoman Olga married an Iran IT ist the Pentagon Korea at the Sacred Heart's Hall, celebrating English-inspired ode to Kobus Alkaz at Manila's Hotel

From page C1

Clutter crisis

Once you move in together, expect clutter to Gina puts it. "Your partner is hanging with him or with her a life's worth of stuff." Her took turned out to be quite a thorn. "I had to go through my stuff, remembering all the good and bad associated with it and deciding whether to keep it, throw it out, or give it away," she recalls. "It made it clearer to me that I wanted Richie in my future."

Nevertheless, clutter may be inevitable. For Richie and Gina, fun-sized fixations came to the rescue. "I stocked up (1) boxes of my stash either in double or my night table for instance," says Richie, an ear doctor who has a double (2) collection.

Berna and Berna, both pack rats, simply made room for clutter. "Just make sure your organized includes an area in the house plans," quips Dave. Still, to reduce the mess, they have resolved to throw or give something away every time they buy something new.

The toothpaste cube is always part of a couple's story. A tube "squeeze it" solved the problem for Gina. "But always it ends the toothpaste tube to squeeze all the air out," she learns, "so it doesn't matter anymore if you squeeze from the bottom or the middle."

For Berna, solution bothered is in the habit of brushing his teeth while in the shower, the solution is simple: "I always buy two tubes of toothpaste. So even if his toothpaste is always open, I don't really care."

Indeed, a marriage is a bed of roses, albeit with thorns. "It's a beautiful thing when a couple becomes one, especially in their mutual decisions," Dave says. "Sadly, it's as rare as a good Pinoy movie." His advice to the newlyweds is to **always seek a middle ground.** "Even if issues seem unimportant, they tend to accumulate," he reminds. "And in the years gone, what seemed trivial is now a ground for separation." It is a matter of acceptance, according to Berna. "Don't expect your mate to change just because he put a ring on your finger. You just have to make the best of what you have."

Long and lasting love

For Manny and Linda, who celebrated their 10th anniversary last June 6, marriage is now beyond differences over food or furniture, although they have over the years learned how to **control** some of the **excesses** of a newlywed. Island in hostilities, Manny's advice to the groom is to be transparent: "Be consistent and [re-dictable on recurring issues. A change will re-quire explanation and lead to an argument." Linda's advice to the bride, on the other hand, is to be more open to and supporting of her husband: "Listen to his views. Learn to give way to his priorities."

With such precious advice, indeed, gleaned from many years of commitment, may the first home of Dayrit and Jenny and other couples planning to follow their path lead to an eternity of love and laughter!

E-mail the author at superwoman@yahoo.com

A LITTLE BIT OF PRIVACY. No matter how intimate you have become, let each other have some time alone. In many cases, the bathroom is a refuge, particularly for women. Accessorize it with this bathroom set in Jamaica Rotan.

Weddings
and wish lists

By Pam Pavao

IN LOIS LOWRY'S BOOK "Anastasia at This Address," the bride and groom faced a dilemma. They received way too many woks from their wedding guests. How many Chinese cooking utensils does one couple need?

But thanks to bridal registry, today's couples no longer have to deal with similar predicaments.

Designed by department stores, the bridal registry is a system that allows an engaged couple to create a wish list of items. Wedding guests can then visit the store to select their gifts from the couple's list. The system benefits both the couple and the guests.

Suzanne Kuna, who runs Wedding-gram.com with her husband John, counts the advantages of having a bridal registry. "It's here and there's nothing we hate if you register. A bridal registry would help the couple get the gifts they truly want. It saves the guest from guessing what the couple prefers."

Bonanno and John registered with Kanan's Department Store, Hill Regal metal Store and Ambiance three years ago and in 1996.

Today, aside from department stores (see no longer offline like services), a number of smaller shops and specialty outlets have their own bridal registry systems, with their own perks and features for the couples.

If you're getting married soon, visit the following places. They might just hold the gift of your dreams.

Avant Abenan

Avant's sales personnel will assist the couple as they apply and choose products they want. Avant has a tracking system that ensures that couples wouldn't end up with several of the same item. Top picks are entertainment products and kitchen appliances. Lovepieces are sold to their list anytime.

Bonus: Avant provides gift cards that can be value-laced for further purchase. When a guest visits the store and presses the card, they can get discounts.

Crossings Department Store

Crossings sets the metric apart by allowing you to register online and avoid crowds with its browsing its website (www.crossings.com.ph). Guests can then log on to the website and search the gifts they want to get for your behest going to the store to pick it up. But you can drop by the store and sign up there, and you can also update your list anytime, whether online or in the store. Cyber Shopper Liz in Quezon Avenue branch, at Crossings, the choices go beyond stuff for the house—couples can even include luggage and lingerie in their list. Mel Castillo, a buyer for Crossings, says that the first things grooms buy are the small kitchen appliances, the next a lot of newlyweds move into small condominiums. Crossings also offers made-to-order furniture to match the couple's unit size and color theme. In the suddenly-clustered-here set declarers, couples are allowed to exchange the items within a month after their wedding.

Bonus: Guests enjoy a five- to ten-percent discount and free gift wrapping when they purchase items from your list. And in case the couple doesn't receive everything on their list, the discount is also available up to two months after the wedding, so they can purchase the rest of the items they want.

Borders

One of Makati's best-kept secrets, Borders is home to two bibliomaniacal baristas, accessories and housewares. It's been running its bridal registry service for the past few years. Couples can visit the store and sign up for the registry, check on it anytime, add new items to their list and get notified when purchases are made. Borders also reward a 10-cup Gifting system which allows friends and family to make partial contributions instead a certain gift item. The store takes care of the gift wrapping and ensures the gifts are delivered to the couple's home.

Bonus: Borders offers a 10-percent discount on all purchases made by the couple on the day they register their list.

NEWPORT bedroom from Ethan Allen (tel. 634-0581)

Signing up at these places makes gift-giving—and receiving—a breeze

ZENING room set from Borders (tel. 811-7605, 811-7606)

SIMPLE elegance from Furnitown (tel. 899-1161)

Bridal Registry 101

Tips from the experts and from the Lifestyle Section

WEDDING PLANNERS SAY THE SAME THING—your gift registry experience for traditional groom includes:

While some etiquette experts advise brides to be objective the workplace, they all agree that the best way to utilize a wedding website and timeline your registry. That's why the rest of your bridal shower is and your personal, dedicated boxes to help spread the word.

There were right number of stores you can do under your bridal registry. Make your decision depending on your guests. Don't be selfish and hoggish. Some couples choose between three to eleven for their registry.

There's no right time frame, either. Go with what feels right. Couples generally register between three to six months before the wedding date.

Rosanelle Rose of Weddingsbydesk.com suggests that couples should go and visit their chosen stores before the scheduled gift selection.

"Check out what's available. You will save time spent in the middle of choosing [the items] for your bridal shower and the actual wedding day," she says.

Also, "Know their likes and not of your guests as well, every, you may also consider having an online gift registry at sites like kasa.com and Wishlist.com."

Grace Ramos of Grassings says, "The dreaded gift for their guests is a set-ranged number. They should remember gift choices that guests. And don't forget the facade—the bar cart, for sure. It does it have to be formal always. For themselves, you can choose a basic, who wouldn't like quality accessories."

According to Makati Queen of Grooms, couples should think of their guests' budgets.

"Sometimes the guests can't afford what's on the wishlist. You can break down the items. Instead of asking for a set of 12 plates, you can choose three sets of four plates."

Borders' Liana Bonifacio says, "It's better if they store an example each value so that the guy likes, not just what the girlfriend. And get a whole range of items."

According to Debra Dominguez of Pita and Display, "Work the items on a whole should be well coordinated with each other to theme and strive to avoid a haphazardly chosen look or collection of pieces."

And the people interviewed say that the couple should "be ready to be flexible when it comes of your home to make sure you choose the right products that satisfy your living space."

Pam Pavao

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Monique Lhuillier designs Bride Barbie

MONIQUE'S modern, elegant design on Bride Barbie

MONIQUE LHUILLIER GOES another fashion-to-doll step when she collaborated with Mattel to create Bride Barbie. She joins an illustrious list of international designers who have created one-of-a-kind creations for every girl's favorite doll maker.

Monique's Bride Barbie wears an off-white bodice and full tulle skirt with subtle, colored stitch and is accessorize the waist, topped off with a dishabille bouquet. It is accompanied with diamond stud earrings and ring. It's a modern contemporary design befitting every modern day princess.

The Bride Barbie is currently on sale at $140 at Monique Lhuillier boutiques and can be bought at www.thebarbiecollection.com. Starting May 1, another version will be available at Toys R Us stores.

More news about Monique. The first Philippine fashion show will be happening this year on Nov. 12 at the Makati Shangri-La Resort. It is touted as one of the biggest events of the year and has the whole town practically buzzing!

The event will be a dinner gala show with a bonus, none other than Lea Salonga (Monique did her bridal gown so well) will be performing. Lea will be flying in from the US for the gala. Monique will present her much anticipated Spring/ Summer 2006 collection.

Proceeds will go to Ana Santos's programs for young Filipino leadership and cultural diversity education and to Bantay Bata 163's education and care programs for abused children.

Cheers to the hostesses **Imelda Cojuangco, Boots Magsaysay-Ho, Gina Lopez, Linda Ejercito Estrada** and **Mary Tordesillas**.

For tickets, call 8180901, 752-4274 or 751-9951.)

Behind closets—Ralph Lauren's Big Pony. It is one of the year's hottest looks, so hot that it has washed instant cult status in the shirt for men and women.

Another area to cash in on instead of it, go to vintage/ebay and you will see it sold in the dozens. So insiders here you stow the big pony logo (some people find the logo too much) it's the new status symbol that conveys, "I am too cool, too chic and too in for words," it really is an instant classic hit that puts him branchmen, new halls to the hands.

The big pony shirt was introduced during the US Open tennis tournament where Ralph Lauren collaborated with the United States Tennis Association. He is creating another swag with her tie-up with the newly created of tennis tournaments, Wimbledon. This month you will see Bill here and get a first sneak peek sporting the new line shirts and shoes, exchanging clothes in the trademark green, glass-blending cues. A first on their illustrious history.

Must-watch movie—"The Devil Wears Prada" and **"Superman."** "Devil Wears Prada," the film adaptation of the international best-selling book of the same title, delves into the glossy, swanky, and superficial world of fashion magazines. The movie's tag line is "The boss from hell," and answers the question posed by every person who dreams of the glamorous and dreamlike world of publishing and fashion, "Would you sacrifice your soul to work for a glossy?" I will take the

HONIGUE GO

THT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

JAIMO
San Diego

LHUILLIER'S first Philippine fashion show is on Nov. 12, at the Makati Shangri-La Resort

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and general information about the couple and a photo (both of the bridal party, if any) to the Inquirer, 185 Rue 2000 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required. Only wedding less than six months old are published. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the readers.

ZIO-SY

Aurélien Tio, daughter of Anambra-and Viola-la Tio, will exchange vows with Theodor Jo-seo of Jacob and Violeta Sy, today (June 27), at New Millennium Church, Manila. The bride will wear an off-white duchess-satin buttoned top with semi A-line skirt and detachable flare modes train designed by Leonard Go.

PALMA-SAN JUAN

Engineer Frederick "Paulo" M. Palma, son of Potenciano (deceased) and Aida (nee Miguel) Palma, recently wed Kathleen Anne "Cookie" B. San Juan, daughter of engineer Ricky and Melinda (née Bello) San Juan, at The San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Congressional Subdivision, QC. Reception dinner was held at the Celebrities Club, Capitol Hills, QC. The groom and the bride and her entourage, the pre-nuptial party of the groom, and the groom and balcony of the couple's parents were designed by Michelle Daniel Morera and Sara Soto.

CHUA-ANTHIA

Marites Chua, son of Bartolome and Rosalinda Chua, recently exchanged vows with Rolen Arenas, daughter of Jose and Rosita Arania, at Santuario de San José. The bride wore an ivory organdy pleated peau-satin bustier and headband draped chiffon-cotton skirt, beaded in alternate lines of crystal cut glass and Swarovski stones, designed by Leonard Go.

FERRER-GALANG

Mario Ian Ferrer, son of Pedro and Emma Ferrer, recently wed Rina Anne Galang, daughter of Virgilio (deceased) and Generosa Galang, at Santuario de San José, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City. Reception was held at Pavilion 8, Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City. Wedding gown was designed by Japson Borja.

ALQUEROS ANNIVERSARY

Guillermo "Willie" Alqueros and Rebecca "Gretchen" Soliva celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a mass officiated by Fr. Dante Concepcion of the Manila Polo Club, Makati-ity Road, Makati. With them are their sons Filbert, Gerry, Mark, Bobby and Freddie. Alfie Lim made the bride's gown.

TOPUE-TORRE

Jesus Fortich Topue Jr., son of Jesus Sr. and Francisca Pellas, will wed Lennie Bautista Torre, daughter of (1934-Oct.) Brocklado and Lenten Torre, on June 29, 2 p.m., at Manila Center Seventh-day Adventist Church, corner E. Tuazon and Quezon Avenue, QC. Reception will follow at Garden Room, Visayas Avenue, QC.

PONCE-PASTORAL

Eduardo Salgado II Ponce, son of Salgado and Teresita Ponce, and Thelma Paloma II Pastoral, daughter of Pompeyo and Adelina Pastoral, will exchange vows on June 28, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Nagtahan. Reception will be at Tuk Tuk Hotel. The bride will wear a fully beaded basque bustier gown with Swarovski crystal designed by Gilbert.

Reaching out to

By Pinky Aurario
Lifestyle Editor

IN THE 8TH HOUR I DIDN'T BOTHER

A medical-dental mission to Palawan is a practice in Catholic charity

'God's favorites'

Boyfriend departs without a by-your-leave

DEAR EMILY,

I have a boyfriend for almost a year now. All of a sudden he left for Hong Kong without telling me.

I only learned he had left for leaving when he called me from the departure area of the airport just before he boarded the plane. He only said he was Hong Kong-bound to look for greener pastures.

What will I do? Should I still care and wait for him? He will return from Hong Kong to say he really loved me. Should I still believe him? How can I let him go?

VANESSA

EMILY'S POST

Jimely A. Mercado

You're in a bit of a dilemma. He tells you he loves you, yet he says and goes ahead with his plan to work overseas, except at the last moment when he is about to board a plane.

And then, he calls you from abroad and says again that he loves you.

Either he is a guy who loves to say pure people and assure you to remain in delight when he finds the green pastures he is searching for—for you and him in Hong Kong—then, I suppose he is serious with extending you would be sincere.

This is a case of the old justifying the means, as the saying goes.

But if he only wants to get away from you to escape the song and dance of a matchless movie, then, what he said to you are, undoubtedly, lines he has perfected via love for you time and again and again.

Give him a break. Give him a chance to prove that love he is keeping us. Make him work his tail.

But how sensitive he will be to your performance. Watch for any deviation in his tone or his actions and see how your long-distance relationship with him plays out.

Hold no undue like saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder" is truly so?

Or will he change the last word to "colder...or outright perhaps?"

E-mail the author at emailyalf@yahoo.com.ph. Subject: Jilmely, to send your letters to Jimmie. Letter to Mr. Marcelo on how the program "En Aksyon Ngayon," 7-11 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzMM 101.9 FM.

Monique Lhuillier designs Bride Barbie

From page B1

MUST-HAVE accessory—Ralph Lauren's Big Pony

"STAR FACTORY"-STYLE TOYS—the coco and caboodle, Poo and Poo

one of Europe's premiere cruise liners, Costa Cruises, which will be launched in Hong Kong and Shanghai, at the end of the month. It is the first cruise ship offered to set sail in China. Several notable personalities and notables will be invited from all over Asia, set here the selected individuals from the Philippines are Doris Magsaysay Ho, Gina Lopez, Lito and Kim Camacho, Basil Dog, Evelyn Kuhne, Mona Tinsioco and Maurice Arvarba.

E-mail the author at emmyalf@hotmail.com or mmyalf@hotmail.com

A PEKAS-FREE PHILIPPINES WITH Pynocare 40 Actisome

From as far north as Baguio to as far south as Davao, the common problem of dark patches, skin discoloration, dark spots or pekas on many Filipino faces is steadily becoming a thing of the past, largely due to the first line treatment for pekas – Pynocare 40 Actisome.

Celebrating its first year in the Philippines, Pynocare 40 Actisome has gone around the Philippines over the last 12 months through the "Pekas-Free Filipina" mail activation tour to allow more Filipinas to discover for themselves the wonders of pekas-free skin.

As part of Mega We Care's initiative, it will continue to visit malls in other parts of the archipelago to bring more women this trusted and reliable brand in Southeast Asia backed up by:

- Two clinical studies in Thailand and Malaysia attesting to its 85% efficacy rate
- Strengthened by its unique MSCC (Melanin Skin Clear Complex) Complex Actisome product formulation that contains melanin or pekas from within
- And over 200,000 women in Southeast Asia enjoying the benefits of pekas-free skin

Continuing to address the needs of the modern day Filipina, Mega We Care now offers an added benefit to its loyal Pynocare users by bringing to the Philippines the PYNOCARE Sun Block with SPF 25 to complement and work synergistically with PYNOCARE 40 ACTISOME to give Filipinas a pekas-free face.

Pynocare Sun Block SPF 25 is the ideal sun protection that contains the unique MSCC (Melanin Skin Clear) Complex to protect skin from UVA and UVB, which can cause discoloration, dark spots, and freckles on the skin, especially on the face.

Be one of the Pekas-Free Filipinas!

Pynocare users from Manila

Pynocare users from Mega Manila

Pynocare users from Mega Visayas & Mindanao

The ideal treatment for pekas-free skin!

Pynocare Sun Block SPF 25 contains the following active ingredients: French Maritime Pine Bark Extract, Centella Asiatica Extract, Ginkgo Biloba Extract, and Green Tea Extract. This unique combination of natural plant extracts normalizes melanin-induced skin pigmentation and, along with sufficient sun protection, helps achieve a smoother pekas-free face.

MEGA

mercury drug

For more information on Pynocare 40 Actisome, please call HOTLINE 894-1111 * TEXTLINE 0917-8374330

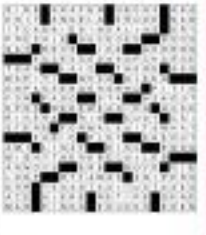
THE BRIDE and the entourage with the designer

MODEL Jong Gayagan as the bride by Bashlon

Not your usual bridal entourage

THE BRIDE IS THE STAR OF HER wedding day. But that doesn't mean the entourage can't also stand out, as siblings Christine, Rachel and Christian Lim Napoles, along with Krisha Mae Almeda Sia, discovered when they modelled for fashion designer Eddie Bashlon recently. They wore wedding entourage creations in striking colors such as plum burgundy, coral orange and strawberry red. The fashion bridal show/show was held at the CI Dream Place in Greenhills, San Juan. Image styling was done by Eric Mananghaya of Studio 646 and Chino Vecina did the photographs. Call 3715043 and 3715044.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Your dream wedding via credit card

FASHION DESIGNER Michelle Lim, the 35-year-old designer whose bridal and formal wear designs are among the most sought-after pieces from stores such as Sari-Sari and Rustan's, knows too well the pressure on couples when it comes to managing their wedding finances.

Michelle recommends that couples set their wedding budget first, as this is essential during wedding planning.

"What's difficult is the downpayment to suppliers, which couples are forced to make early or between private sale here so," she says. As most wedding suppliers do not have the facility to accept credit card payments, couples are forced to fork out cash.

"Thankfully the introduction of PayLite-By-Check makes it easier for couples to now tap their Citibank credit cards. PayLite-By-Check gives cardholders the option to reserve her a Manager's Check payable to any establishment. The check amounts requested will then be charged to the cardholder's available credit line and he or she can choose to pay over three, six, nine, 12, 18 and 24 months.

"I know what couples go through when preparing for their dream wedding, and PayLite-By-Check will make budget planning easier and more affordable since you don't have to shell out cash all at once," says Michelle.

This is echoed by one of Michelle's clients, Cheryl Ann Martinez, who shares helpful advice to other brides-to-be.

The 26-year-old advertising account manager, who is set to tie the knot with her US-based fiancé Christian Wolfert in October, believes Citibank's PayLite-By-Check provides the best option for couples who don't want to be burdened with financial requirements.

"What makes this truly convenient for brides like me is that I can pay through PayLite's installment options. Plus, I can choose the most convenient payment scheme for me and the interest rates are much lower compared to other credit cards."

To avail of PayLite-By-Check, simply call 4233000 and when approved, Citibank will deliver the Manager's Check to your billing address for free. If you've paid already, just submit your official receipt and the Manager's Check will be issued payable to you.

As a special introductory offer, cardholders can enjoy 1.5 percent monthly add-on rate for 12 months valid until June 30 only. To know more about the benefits of PayLite-By-Check, call 4233000 now. Or you can log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Blue, blue, my world is blue

Manly blue it was since Father's Day should not have any other color. It was the day for the men of our lives

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

COLORS DEPICT THE vibrancy of life and our express dramatic emotion from extreme joy to utter sadness. Although my eclectic mode is in living color, blue happens to be my favorite even as a child. I simply love all the hues of blue, from the color of a clear sky to the deep depths of navy. The gradations are endless and can go from a sweet periwinkle tone to a strong blue-gray shade.

In the corporate and retail worlds, colors are used for effective branding and name recall. Lately, I have been seeing blue all over the events I have been attending. On Father's Day last week, Stanley Printers, with a brown and blue-tone, held a fun Alfred exhibition starring with friends in Fashion's in Greenbelt, going on to a photo exhibit of babies and ending with a private movie at MyCinema. As in all of energetic Karen Pineda's events, exciting games and prizes were generously given away this time care of Metal Enhancer. All dads were pampered at P Galileo while moms and kids looked for clues throughout the mall to find the perfect gift.

Pep Art, the photo exhibit, showcased captivating and heartwarming real photos of dads captured through the eyes of their children. It showed a more personal side to famous dads. The special bonds that tie fathers to their kids were seen through the photos along with touching bits of advice, all on display at Greenbelt 3. Instagero Premium truly found a great way to promote their product to

BLUE II

SUITSGOOD Group product manager Abel Arcilla, supermodel Rissa Valarie and super dad Reuben

ACTOR dad Ruby Zosas with preteen daughters Rhiel Mae and Ara

KLM ground service ladies Sheila Monserrat and Jessi Sarmenal

MUSIC genius Ryan Cayabyab and son Thomas

KLM Special Services as Schiphol Airport Kitty Mayberry-Hanson and Marianne Reade-Peters

EVENT host Johnny Limon and Maria Lindong

RADIO royals Betty and Boboi Pelo

DASHING banker Noel Bautista and Peter Fortis of DFI

Blue, blue, my world is blue

SECURITY Bank CEO Alberto Villamor, chair Frederick Dy and Rafael Simpao

IMPRESSIVE lounge of the KLM company employees

ANNIVERSARY'S beautiful architecture and scenery

From page E1

dials, perfectly timed on Father's Day.

Security Bank's big bash

From the blue of Boracay, my next blue event was the 55th anniversary of Security Bank. I wore another scandalous creation by Dennis Lustico (tel. 0920-7560894) made in the same shade as the bank's striking blue.

Security Bank held a Customer Appreciation Party at the Grand Ballroom of Fiesta Philippine Plaza. It has become one of the most prestigious bank-customer appreciation parties with numerous awards and citations. A musical extravaganza primarily featuring top acts Hope Hernandez was performed by the LCG Orchestra with talented bastard Saiongga as conductor and musical director.

The moonlight jazz era of the '50s was the theme of the evening, appropriately also the era when Security Bank was founded.

Looking cavalierly through three ball gown changes, Pepe sang a medley of songs with Richard Williams and Jeffrey Hidalgo accompanying her in selected duets. She mentioned that 50 years is indeed a long time and joked her boyfriends usually only last two years. My own marriage is now 12 years and one day I do hope to celebrate our 55th anniversary alive and in good health.

New Dutch airport

On a more global scenario, the color blue is also the chosen scheme of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Last month, together with business columnist Maritess Arcache, we were invited to check out the impressive facilities of Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands. This was my first chance to travel to the land of tulips and clogs, and I was excited to try out their wooden shoes.

Amsterdam is a very charming place. Its old houses are distinguished by their dimensions and architectural features, especially the crowning part of the façade. The Dutchmen's love for the arts is also evident. Incredibly, although I am a fan of Vincent Van Gogh, and, as an amateur artist myself, I admire the works of Rembrandt van Rijn, a much older Dutch master. The color, or contrast of the two artists is amazing.

One of the highlights of the visit was the House of Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl who wrote a celebrated diary of her life during World War II. She had to stay in her house with her family for two years before their secret refuge was discovered and she was sent off to the gas chambers. It's a horrifying look at a brutal time in world history.

On a less historical aspect, another high light is The Bellship bar, a graffiti covered bar that publicly sells "Space Cakes." The spiked dessert is available over the skilled counter but it was only brave, dog lover Kathy Moran, who dared partake it. To the land of the free (prostitution and drugs are legal!), our conservative Pinoys didn't even consider the cupcake. We all just nibbled for fear of acting stupid on our trip of the Schiphol airport.

We were fearful because the new airport, screening methods employ the latest technology, using radio waves to scan the body by means of reflection. The scan is made inside a cylindrical device that looks like a transporter machine from "Star Trek." This method detects not only metal objects, but plastic and ceramic objects as well. Actually, we were more concerned with their drug-sniffing dogs.

The spacious, slick interior of the extensive lounge of KLM is divided into different areas for travelers to relax, check e-mails, eat and watch TV. Complete bathing facilities are also available, as well as quiet rooms for sleeping.

The tour included the KLM employees' lounge where the pilots and stewardesses hang out between flights. If I could only interview stewardesses, I wouldn't mind being a KLM stewardess. Of course, I also need to be about a foot taller.

Since KLM flies nonstop to Europe daily, three flights are so convenient and one does feel secure on these planes. Call 407-2202, e-mail reservations.Philippines@klm.com or visit www.klm.com.ph

The short but memorable trip was hard for my diet. Minutes convinced me to buy almost every variety of cheese and have three suitcases packed so they can be stored for weeks. Those days in Dutch land made me a cheese lover. We really enjoyed the wonderful sights. Amsterdam has to offer, including a peep at the Red Light District, and we celebrated Queen's Day together with the whole city, this time clad in orange and not blue.

E-mail the author at empirestore@inquirer.com.ph.

ENJOYING Amsterdam: Joy Abrogar, Joanna Ramirez, Maurice Arcache, Bea Princesa, Dindin Monserrat and Kathy Moran

ALL ORANGE: Kathy Moran celebrating Queen's Day with the locals

PR guru Karen Peñaranda and Ramon Ang Boo Chan

TRAVELING business executive Ricky Delgado

SNACKS at executive lounge of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

COLUMNIST Joanna Ramirez in front of "Night Watch" by Rembrandt

SECURITY Bank executives at the 55th anniversary with Pepe Fernandez

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — IN STYLE

answer on page D4

What's Up with the MVP CUP 2

ASIA vs EUROPE

Last Year's Players have had a Busy Year

It's been nearly a year since the inaugural MVP Cup was held in the Philippines, and a lot of things have happened to the participants. Some of last year's standout shuttlers have been joining various tournaments not just to keep in competitive shape, but also to earn more prestige for their respective nations.

European champion Yao Jie competes for the Netherlands

Yao Jie competes for the Netherlands

Taufik Hidayat won the Olympic gold medal for men's singles in 2004 and is currently ranked number #10 in the world

Players sensational female Nadieh Kanrokin and young partner Kamilova Aryanidin are the 2006 ranked mixed doubles team

Eleven (11) Gold medals for the number 1 ranked team in the

The England pair of Donna Kellogg and Gail Emms hold the title of "world's number #1 in women's

Taufik Hidayat with his Olympic gold medal in men's singles. 2004 and is currently ranked number #10 in the world

Yao Jie competes for the Netherlands

Xie Xingfang and Zhang Ning hold the world's number 2 ranked women's doubles team

Taking on the Philippines is Netherlands Mia Audina of the Netherlands, ranked number 2 in women's singles and equally dangerous in doubles play

Take world men's number 1 Lin Dan, for example. Since grabbing the tournament-clinching win in the first ever MVP Cup, the Chinese sensation has won four more major tournaments. These were the China Masters, the Yonex Sunrise Hong Kong Badminton Championships, the Yonex All England Open, and the Thomas Cup. Lin Dan lost in the World Badminton Championships to his teammate in last year's MVP Cup, Indonesian sensation Taufik Hidayat. Taufik, the reigning Olympic gold medalist in men's singles, has had an eventful year since last July. After defeating Lin Dan and becoming the only player to win gold medals in both the Olympics and the World Badminton Championships, he also made a major decision in February of this year. That was when Taufik married his girlfriend, Ani Dumaliar, in Jakarta.

Did Emms proudly represented Europe in the first MVP Cup in both women's doubles (with Mia Audina) and mixed doubles (with Nathan Robertson). Since then, the 27-year old Emms and Robertson have earned the world's number 1 ranking in mixed doubles and retained with fellow English player Donna Kellogg to win the Carlton International and the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games. The Netherlands' Mia Audina picked double duty in the last MVP Cup as she competed in women's singles and teamed with Emms in women's doubles. Audina lost to eventual champion Xie Xingfang in the semifinals of the 2006 Yonex All England Open Championships and barely lost to France's Pi Hongyan in the finals of the Asian Singapore Open.

For the MVP Cup 2 slated for the Araneta Coliseum on July 14-16, 2006, Emms will bring Kellogg along for the ride. Audina also returns as Europe aim to reverse their fortunes from last year's edition. They won't be easy as Lin Dan, Taufik, and Zhong Ning will return to power Team Asia, together with the Philippines' own Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion. If last year is any indicator, expect sure more fireworks as the MVP Cup 2 takes shape.

PLDT DSL

SMART

Anniversary of Canonical Coronation to be marked

SET HISTORIES ITEM JOSEPH has been asked to restore the image of Virgen de los Remedios and have her vestments made for the 50th anniversary of her Canonical Coronation Sept. 8 in Villa del Sol in San Fernando, Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto will crown the Virgin.

On July 18-20, the image, enshrined at the Chancery Chapel, will be brought to different parishes in Diocese.

Schedule of visits to other places: July 20-24, Apalit; July 24-26, San Simon; July 26-28, Sto. Tomas; July 28-30, Mexico; July 30-Aug. 1, Guagua; Aug. 1-3, Sasmuan; Aug. 3-5, Lubao; Aug. 5-7, Florida-blanca; Aug. 7-8, Porac; Aug. 9-11, Santa Rita; Aug. 11-13, Bacolor; Aug. 13-15, Minalin; Aug. 15-17, Arayat; Aug. 17-19, Magalang; Aug. 19-21, Mabalacat; Aug. 21-23, Angeles City; Aug. 25, University of the Assumption; and Aug. 26-Sept. 8, San Fernando Cathedral, where the novena will be prayed.

The visit of the Virgin to different parishes in Pampanga is a tradition started in 1952. Then Bishop Cesar Ma. Guerrero initiated the "Crusade of Peace and Charity" to console the poor.

Bishop Guerrero brought the image to the San Beda Parish in Sasmuan to fulfill her Reynarde to Manuel whose 6 years' he was sick.

Rich people of the town donated rice, vegetables and fruits and meat. Processions brought the donations to people of different towns.

She only donations came, but miracles, as well, through the intercession of the Virgen de los Remedios.

Since the beginning of the tradition, Doña Jacinta vda. de Yang was assigned by Bishop Guerrero to prepare the portable surplice for the image. Doña Jacinta did this for many years until she died.

The family of Tess Arvin, who was asked to remove the Virgin, went to Doña Jacinta's old house. Tess's parents, Romeo and Imelda Joson, bought the house and lee in 1974. His parents now down to the old house and built a new one.

Nyong Cora," then a young boy who now the beginning of the Crusade, said the Virgin returned to "her house" after 30 years. The people of Pampanga call their Virgin "Sila ding Capampangan" or Sto of the Capampangans.

To this day, devote Diosan de Cristhal are in charge of the Crusade with the help of town Gobernadorcillo Cenon.

An official hymn was composed by Cesarbrado Mallig of Bacolor with lyrics by Nilo Peñaflor of San Miguel de Mayumo. The present director of the Crusade is Fr. Marco Gonzaga.

The vestments of the Virgin are being made by Hermerlo, a designer known for costumes managed by Antonio de Jesus.

When the Canonical Coronation of the Virgin was being planned in 1956, the people of Bulacan refused to give the Virgin thinking she would not be returned to their church.

It was believed that "where the Virgin was, there she would stay." So Bishop Guerrero had a replica made. Apostolic Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi crowned the Virgin.

The original image of the Virgen de los Remedios remains in Bulacan, which celebrates her feast day on Nov. 20.

The parish priest is Fr. Mat Miranda.

Fiesta Mass

A special Mass will be celebrated 8 a.m., July 2, at the Club Filipino for the feast of Our Lady of Pilar. The Pilar Legacy Foundation holds the celebration.

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos, whose birthday is on July 2, is a devotee of Our Lady of Pilar. Rolly Caballero recalls that Ms Marcos was acquitted of the cases filed against her in New York on the feast day of Our Lady of Pilar.

Mr Caballero was the guest of honor during the launch of the book "Mea Tes Ugamot" ("Mother of Us All") at Power Books two years ago. Call 8128272 or e-mail bobcaballero@email.com.

A special Mass is also scheduled at 8 a.m., July 9, at Sto. Domingo Church.

Apparition

At least 250,000 pilgrims are expected in Medjugorje this week to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the apparitions to six young visionaries of Our Lady of Medjugorje in 1981.

Virginia Villaluz-Jones sent me this message of Our Lady:

"My greatest joy is to see you praying in my son, Jesus, gathered from heart."

The Protestant journalist Wayne Weible wrote "Letters from Medjugorje" and "The Message." He was scorned by Catholics after visiting Medjugorje.

Prayer requests

The emotional children in Upliftman Home in Cuajimlok, Bulacan, will pray every day for your intentions. Send your request or if you want to help at 09173276919. The house is run by the Loving Handsof Joseph and Mary Foundation.

Vows

The Daughters of St. Paul will hold the perpetual religious profession of nine nuns at 9 a.m., June 29, at the Queen of the Apostles Seminary, 2260 Fr. Martinez St., Pasay City. The sisters are Sisterse Ambrosia, Leonisa Briones; Carmel Marbebella, Elvie Isabela, Lina Infante and Annalyn Inglaterra. Cardinals Cardinal Rosales will officiate.

Condolences

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Claude Rosales, mother of Fr. Roy Rosales, and Fr. Gabriel Coral. The sudden death of Fr. Coral from a massive stroke was a shock to friends and religious priests. May their souls rest in peace.

Incorruptible body

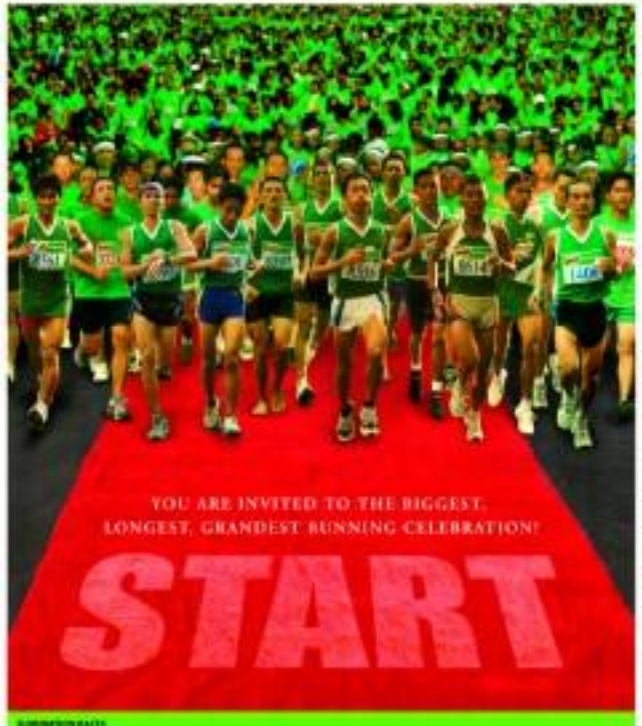
Rita Silvestre says the body of St. Charbel was found incorrupt after hundreds of years before his beatification in 1965.

By the way, professor Ichu Abrasaldo adds to Becky Demetillo. Ichu is a nephew of St. Charbel.

Masses

Cardinal Rosales will officiate in a concelebrated Mass marking the death anniversary of Fr. Jeremiah Purisa at 6 p.m., June 26, at the Manila Cathedral. Other Masses will be held at St. James the Greater Parish in Ayala Alabang, 6:30 p.m. to St. John Bosco Parish, 12:15 p.m.; and Seminario de San Antonio at 6 p.m.

VIRGEN de los Remedios is enshrined at the Chancery Chapel of the San Fernando Cathedral in Pampanga



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LIFESTYLE Travel

Cup of life

Text and photos by Virgie Baga Reyes

THE WORLD would is in the grip of football fever. Germany has welcomed and, from all states from all over the world to witness the thrilling World Cup.

Fans are in high spirits. They wear imaginative outfits emblazoned on the cheeks. They paint their faces with their respective flags and even put on crazy masks to painfully assist all rabid fan standstill similarly wearing to see their national clubs win the Cup.

Such gave rise to like the British David Beckham and Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn the kind of adulation normally reserved for pop stars.

The stadiums, particularly those in Munich and Nuremberg, are filled to the rafters. Fans tour in unison, and wave their flags and banners with pride and joy.

The Munich stadium by itself is an attraction for many a football fan. The diamond-shaped structure of the stadium lights up in different colors. This spectacular, luxurious Munich landmark is said to have cost 280 million euros to build.

The most pick utensils in the various merchandise available in every nook and corner of Germany from bags, turkey sheets, jewelry, pins, mobiles, caps and balls to pillows, phones, tote cars, jewelry and other knickknacs. Hotels even have cutest designed rubber duckies. All souvenir items carry the cuddly Cuban Yi, the year's mascots, and Fifa, his talking ball.

And, when there's a game to watch, there's always food. Sports-crazed Bavarians love and Germans sausages, while guzzling cold Bavarian beer is a must.

Very German. Prost!

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Kingdom of the sole

MINIATURE Adidas shoes made of ceramics adorn the bar.

HOTEL rooms and lobby are decorated with photographs of athletes and their sports.

THE NO-FRILLS lobby of Adidas hotel is dominated by a huge photograph of an athlete.

By Yungie Bago-Reyes

AT THE WORLD WATCHES THE thrilling games of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, there's another "world" in Germany that's keeping the ball game rolling, so to speak.

It's the World of Adidas, based in Herzogenaurach, Germany, where the global headquarters of the Adidas group is located.

Adidas is the official sponsor, supplier and licensee of this year's World Cup. Six of the 32 participating teams (Germany, Argentina, France, Spain, Japan and Trinidad and Tobago) wear the latest Adidas creations, from jerseys and jackets to goalkeeper's gloves and shoes.

Well, over 200 players use Adidas footwear in the World Cup, wearing either the +Predator Absolute or the +F50 Tunit, the brand's high-performance footwear designed for better flexibility and traction.

Even the official soccer ball—came from Adidas. Referees wear Adidas. Ballboys, officials and volunteers, too.

Yes, Adidas welcomes the World Cup in its own country. It's like a homecoming—in fact Dassler's homeland.

Dassler, founder of Adidas company began manufacturing shoes in 1920 in his factory in Herzogenaurach using the limited range of materials available to him. The idea was both simple and ingenious: to equip every sports person with the optimal gear for his needs.

Adidas has existed as a company name since 1949. Dassler created the name by combining the first syllables of his first name and surname. A year later he registered the three stripes as his trademark. Today, Adidas products range from shoes, clothing and accessories for all kinds of sports, from basketball and football to fitness and training, adventure, trail and golf.

Adidas is now the largest provider of sports shoes and clothing in Europe.

Sports world

A visit to Adidas headquarters in Herzogenaurach is like seeing a whole new world inspired by sports.

Sitting in a former US military base, the 114-hectare headquarters took more than a year to build. It cost over 60 million euros. It has been divided into World of Sports, World of Living, World of Commerce and Public World.

The World of Sports, situated on a 26-hectare area, houses the corporate office of the Adidas Group. It is conceived like a campus as it also features sports and outdoor areas, state-of-the-art exhibition halls and a watercourse called Intipas, located on the banks of an artificial lake.

The place is cozy and a bit quiet, even if there are around 3,400 employees from 53 nations working here.

World of Sports, since it has its own soccer field, tennis court and basketball court, has played host to many sport superstars. Besides soccer players David Beckham and Michael Ballack, pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, tennis stars Justin Henin-Hardenne and Martina Hingis, US basketball star Tracy McGrady and the German soccer national team have been guests to the WOS.

Another attraction of WOS is the huge exhibition hall featuring the All Dassler Brand Center, the venue of the group's presentation of concepts and product innovations of the Adidas brand.

Upon entering the building, one comes upon the 2,000-sqm (steel) auditorium-like entrance area. The area invites the visitors even for the exhibition rooms, conference rooms and presentation areas. The collections of the three Adidas divisions (Sport Performance, Sport Heritage and Sport Style) can be viewed by retailers and visitors.

The brand center also has the "Mijk of Brain, a museum of sorts highlighting past milestones and future innovations of Adidas. Here, cameras and videos are not allowed.

World of Living, in the far southwest corner of the prime lot, offers 600 residential units for either of its employees or for the well-off families who wish to buy a house in the quiet town.

World of Commerce, the smallest of the four worlds, houses the Adidas Factory Outlet Store. With a million visitors from all over the world each year, the store sells products at discounted prices and is a haven for shoppers.

Public facilities find a home in the fourth world, the Public World, which houses the four-star Adidas Rennais Hotel, with 150 rooms and a wide range of leisure and gastronomy services, including a restaurant and bar as well as a fitness and spa area.

Women's fall-winter

Coinciding with the World Cup games, Adidas has also unveiled its fall/winter collection for women, dubbed Adidas, with the slogan, "Power from within."

Adidas is a high quality sport performance line of products that combines performance and design. The line is a complete range of women's apparel, footwear and accessories covering the gym, running, swimming, yoga and tennis.

"The new collection offers lightweight and flowing fabrics, as well as fresh maternal colors that ensure comfort, breathability and extreme freedom of movement," said Franziska Rosenmann, Adidas senior product manager, women's global marketing sport performance division.

PINK roasted calf with gravy, veggies and mashed potato from Adidas Rennais Hotel.

A PLATTER of tennis delights.

ADIDAS merchandise are sold in Fan Shops outside the stadiums.

World Cup fanatics and other sports denizens find perfect footing in Adidasland

Herrmann added that the label' apparel has used a variety of high-end technologies, such as ClimaCool and ClimaWarm, to provide heat and moisture management through thermal insulation in cold weather conditions.

To drum up interest in the new line, Adidas has tapped the support of world-class athletes, such as Yelena Isinbayeva (Russian pole vaulter), Allyson Felix (American sprinter), Ana Ivanovic (Serbian tennis player) and Gro Hammerseng (Norwegian handball player).

The Adidas women's ambassadors will be seen wearing Adidas in their games.

"We are actually working closely together with athletes all over the world in order to make sure that we create clothes and products that are better enhance their performance," said Herrmann.

Adidas's color palette features feminine tones, such as pale peach and soft orange mixed with different shades of grey, and the light grey with an electric-blue right sky and the more classic white and dark colors.

"Adidas's collection focuses on details and on combining shapes and colors," said Herrmann. "Sexy soft non-sporty wears plus stylish and voluminous silhouettes are fully integrated in the sport products."

Adidas Women Adidas collection will be available soon awaits worldwide, including the Philippines, at the Adidas Sport Performance concept stores.

E-mail the author at ybago@inquirer.com.ph

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TravelBriefs

Marian pilgrimage

A 14-DAY TOUR IS BEING ORGANIZED FOR Marian devotees consisting of a visit to two major Marian pilgrimage sites: Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal, as well as other religious sites like the Black Virgin, or Virgen Morena in Montserrat, Spain; the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain; the Cathedral in Salamanca famous for its 53 scenes of the life of Christ in the Gothic style; to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and its museum in Spain; the Cathedral and St. Anthony de Padua church in Lisbon, Portugal. Call 4166888/8883.

Play and win

Singapore Airlines' "Fool to Fly the A380 Quiz and Draw" is giving away two seats on the world's most A380-commercial flight and cruise – two-destination hotel stay in Singapore and Sydney. Eligible for the A380 historic flight from Singapore to Sydney. The prizes is open to all 18 years old and older. It runs until Sept. 13. To join, simply log on to www.singaporeair.com/a380.

Tour guide seminar

The Department of Tourism is conducting a 20-day comprehensive multilingual tour guiding seminar, July 10-Aug. 9. Featured speakers are from the tourism industry, academe and government. Prerequisite of qualified applicants is on June 28-30. Call 5257900 loc. 5351126 or 5258811.

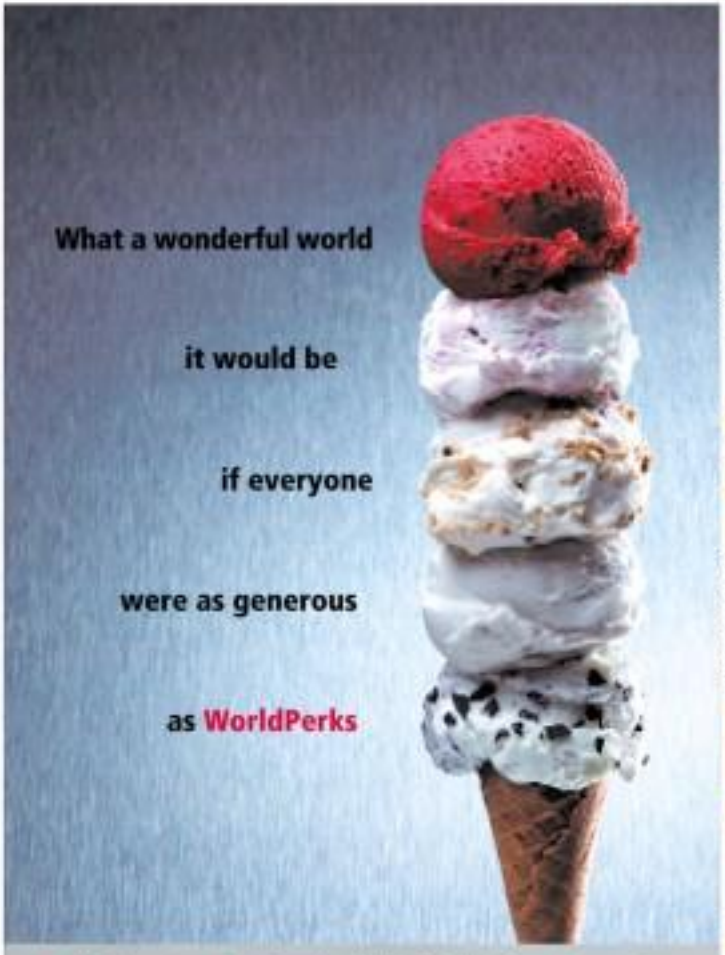
Special packages

Lexmoto Airlines offers special travel packages for Cebu and Boracay choices until Aug. 31. First/class passengers traveling to Bohol have experience inclusive two complimentary nights in a deluxe room at the Ritz Carlton Bohol. Business Class passengers can stay overnight in a deluxe room at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers. Both groups can choose between P28,900-P5,210 credit at their hotel or a Sundowner Zone dinner/ Bohol. The offer also includes a 90-hour visa.
Call 8115318, or visit www.lexmoto.com.

'Tee for Two' offer

Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City offers "Tee for Two" for P4,800, inclusive of tax, until Sept. 30. The special weekday package for two includes a one-night stay at "the hotel Mount Malarayat, breakfast for two and two rounds of golf at the golf course. The package is not applicable on Friday and Saturday nights, or on official holidays. Call (043) 7550888 loc. 2161/2162/2120, or e-mail reservations.hotel@gmail.com or hotels.dennis@gmail.com.

ROBINSONS Malls, represented by its general manager Nilo Maya (right), and **NBA Asia**, represented by its regional head Carlo Singson (center right) have forged a tie-up for the former to be the official mall partner of **NBA Madness 2006**. **NBA Madness** is an interactive basketball, music and lifestyle event for fans of all ages. Catch the exclusive **NBA Madness On The Road Mall tour** at Robinsons Galleria today and at Robinsons Place Manila on July 7-9. Shoppers at Robinsons Galleria may also get the chance to meet and greet the NBA Tabasa live on July 21 at the Fountain Area.



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Flying smart: nwa

TOURISM Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano (second from left) with Pearl Pacific Resort's Prince Mittal, managing director Kelly Boncan and owner Charles Uy. The resort is making available "Front Office Management Seminars," which is designed for small resorts and hotels accredited by the Department of Tourism. For free webinars, visit www.pathpacificbeachcapsoon.or contact Marian Obispo at the DOT Accreditation Division, tel. 5258252/5249841.

COLORFUL and well-decorated boats on the during the recent 10th annual Balsa Festival at the Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel in Lian, Batangas focused on environmental protection. "Pangalagaan ang ilog, dalisayin, Pamilihin ang Ating Kapaligiran, Iadlang Hatin ang Kasiraan!" The major sponsor for the event was giant food conglomerate San Miguel Corp. Call Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel at 7323232/5150807/7116885.

EXPAT HAVEN IN MAKATI

About 89 percent of Oakwood Residence Premier Center's guests are expatriates, majority of them Americans, Indians, Europeans, Japanese, Singaporeans, Thais and some Middle Easterners. Most of the expats are in the Philippines on a long-term basis. As they usually stay from nine months to one year or Oakwood, they enjoy long-term rates. The hotel is a stone's throw away from Makati's Central Business District. Oakwood is located at the top of the Glorietta Shopping Mall and within walking distance of Ayala's financial district. The serviced apartment complex offers full-service kitchen and laundry facilities. Guests don't have to take care of paying electric and water bills. Many guests have stayed at the hotel before and Oakwood has an occupancy rate higher than the industry average, 98 percent. Call 7398888 or visit www.oakwood.com